

Perth and Kinross Council

Perth and Kinross **Local Landscape Areas** **Review**

Final report

Prepared by LUC

April 2026



Perth and Kinross Council

Perth and Kinross
Local Landscape Areas Review

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Chapter 1

Introduction

Background

1.1 LUC was appointed by Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) to undertake a review and update of the local landscape areas (LLAs) within the Perth and Kinross Council area. This study updates the previous Local Landscape Designation Review undertaken by LUC in 2014 ('the 2014 LLA Review')¹.

1.2 This document sets out the process and results of the review and presents recommended updates and changes to the LLAs. The document structure is as follows:

- **Chapter 1** introduces the aims and context of the review;
- **Chapter 2** presents the approach and methodology;
- **Chapter 3** describes the stakeholder engagement which was undertaken;
- **Chapter 4** reviews the additional areas that were considered for LLA designation; and
- **Chapter 5** includes updated LLA citations with recommended changes.

1.3 This document is supported by the following figures:

- **Figure 1.** Local Landscape Areas
- **Figure 2.** Search Area A
- **Figure 3.** Proposed Extension to Upper Strathearn Local Landscape Area
- **Figure 4.** Search Area B
- **Figure 5.** Updated Ben Vrackie Local Landscape Area Boundary
- **Figure 6.** Updated Loch Leven and Lomond Hills Local Landscape Area Boundary

Aims and Context

Objectives of the study

1.4 It is intended that the study will inform the update of PKC's 2020 Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on local landscape designations ('the 2020 SPG')².

1.5 The overall objectives of the study were defined by PKC as follows:

- To identify any changes to the LLA boundaries or associated descriptions.
- To inform the spatial strategy of PKC's Local Development Plan 3 which is currently being produced.
- To inform future design guidelines, development briefs, master plans and developers' concept statements.

1.6 More detailed objectives, as defined in the project brief, include:

¹ LUC in association with STAR Development Group (2014) Perth and Kinross Local Landscape Designations Review. Perth and Kinross Council.

² Perth and Kinross Council (2020), Landscape, Supplementary Guidance 2020. [Online] Available at: https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/45777/Adopted-SG-2020/pdf/LandscapeSG_mar2020.pdf?m=1583927238097

- To update the LLAs in light of stakeholder feedback to ensure public perceptions have been considered.
- To consider any necessary boundary realignments.
- To identify any material changes to the Statement of Significance and Special Qualities.
- To identify any necessary updates to the Forces for Change reflecting current and future pressures.
- To identify any necessary updates to the management objectives to reflect the current and future physical and policy environment, including National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)³ and the updated NatureScot and Historic Environment Scotland (HES) ‘*Guidance on Designating Local Landscape Area*’ (2020)⁴.
- To set out the methodology employed and engagement carried out.

Changes to National Policy Context

1.7 In 2023, NPF4 was adopted, replacing National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3) and Scottish Planning Policy (SPP). As such, the national policy context of the 2014 LLA Review and 2020 SPG is outdated, resulting in the requirement for the LLAs to be reviewed against current national policy as set out in NPF4. Policy 4(d) of NPF4 reaffirms the protection of local landscape designation. Other changes introduced by NPF4 have the potential to alter current and future development pressures in the LLAs. In particular, NPF4 introduces increased support for renewable energy development in the landscape, including wind farms (Policy 1 and Policy 11). There is also greater support for woodland and forestry protection and expansion (Policy 6). These development types have potential to affect the qualities and characteristics of the LLAs.

NatureScot and Historic Environment Scotland Guidance 2020

1.8 In 2020, NatureScot and Historic Environment Scotland (HES) published guidance titled ‘*Guidance on Designating Local Landscape Areas*’ (2020) (‘the NatureScot/HES Guidance’). This guidance acts as an update to the original guidance developed in 2006 for local landscape designations across Scotland. The original guidance was widely used to inform the designation of local landscapes as part of the Local Development Plan (LDP) process. Given changes to the policy context since 2006 and changes in approaches to local landscape designation reviews, an update to this guidance was required.

1.9 The updated guidance is critical to informing this study, and states that the review of existing LLAs may be necessary due to the following:

- “*new development*”
- *subsequent other local designations*
- *new reasons or emphasis for designation – such as the historic environment, natural heritage or health and well-being*
- *the need for a clearer statement of the qualities and values of the LLA that provide the basis for their designation*⁵.

1.10 The guidance sets out a seven step process for establishing or reviewing LLAs and acknowledges that “*When reviewing existing local landscape areas, it may not be necessary to carry out as comprehensive a review as when designating new areas*”⁶. The guidance also states “*When reviewing or amending an existing suite of LLAs, for example during the review of the LDP, it may be the case that only a simplified designation process needs to be undertaken. A single field survey and public*

³ Scottish Government (2023), National Planning Framework 4. [Online] Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2023/02/national-planning-framework-4/documents/national-planning-framework-4-revised-draft/national-planning-framework-4-revised-draft/govscot%3Adocument/national-planning-framework-4.pdf>

⁴ NatureScot and Historic Environment Scotland (2020), *Guidance On Designating Local Landscape Areas*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=7640e04d-2bd7-4022-9572-ac5d009736dc#:~:text=Local%20landscape%20designations%20are%20a,English>

⁵ Ibid., page 7.

⁶ Ibid., page 12.

*consultation exercise may be sufficient in some circumstances, unless additions to the suite were being considered as a possibility*⁷. As such, a streamlined methodology has been adopted, as set out in **Chapter 2**.

1.11 A key element of the guidance is the importance of community/ stakeholder engagement in establishing and reviewing LLAs. The guidance highlights that such engagement is a crucial part of the designation process and should be carefully considered in order to deliver a sound and robust study. The guidance states that “*Involving stakeholders meaningfully, at the right stages in the process, will not only inform the work but build wider understanding of LLAs*”⁸. An appropriate level of stakeholder engagement has been built into the proposed approach, as described in **Chapter 3**.

Current Designations

1.12 The 2014 LLA Review and the 2020 SPG identify the same set of eleven LLAs. These are named below and are shown on **Figure 1**.

- Rannoch Forest
- Loch Lyon and Loch an Daimh
- Loch Tay
- Upper Strath Tay
- Ben Vrackie
- Glen Quaich
- Glen Almond and the Sma' Glen
- Upper Strathearn
- Sidlaw Hills
- Ochil Hills
- Loch Leven and Lomond Hills

1.13 In addition to the LLAs, Perth and Kinross also includes parts of five National Scenic Areas (NSA). These are designated by NatureScot and are not within this scope of the present review.

- Ben Nevis and Glen Coe
- Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon
- Loch Tummel
- River Tay (Dunkeld)
- River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans)

1.14 Finally, a small area of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park (LLTNP) is within Perth and Kinross. The NSAs and National Park are also shown on **Figure 1**.

⁷ Ibid., page 37.

⁸ Ibid., page 18.

Chapter 2

Approach and Methodology

Introduction

2.1 This chapter presents the approach to the review, which follows the recommendations of the NatureScot/HES Guidance. As noted in **Chapter 1** a streamlined methodology has been adopted, to avoid repeating the 2014 LLA Review. The focus of this study, as confirmed by PKC, is a review of the existing LLAs rather than the identification of new designations.

Task 1: Inception, Scoping and Project Plan

2.2 An inception meeting was held on 18th September 2025 and was attended by PKC and LUC. The points of discussion included:

- The need for a review and update of PKC's current LLAs, given the time passed since adoption of the current LLAs and associated descriptions (adopted in 2014), as well as changes in national policy and guidance, and changes in development pressures potentially affecting the landscape.
- The scope and approach of the study, including the importance of stakeholder engagement and how this will be carried out via an online consultation page.
- The content of the consultation page, including an online survey, with PKC to provide a list of invitees for the consultation.
- Data requirements and the need for GIS datasets, including adopted LLAs and any other related designations and LDP policy areas, to be used to complete the study.
- Timescales and key dates for the study, including the consultation period for stakeholder feedback, and dates for completion of the final report.

2.3 Following the inception meeting a Project Plan was drafted and agreed with PKC, including the methodology that is presented below.

Task 2a: Desktop Review

2.4 A review of the adopted LLAs and their accompanying citations was undertaken, following the method promoted by the NatureScot/HES Guidance. This focused on:

- Review of the citations against the recommendations set out in the 2020 Guidance document.
- Identification of any major land use changes within the LLAs.
- Identification of any material changes to the citations that would be needed.
- Review of Special Qualities to ensure these are comprehensive and remain robust.
- Review Forces for Change and Management Objectives to ensure they reflect current development pressures and policy context.

2.5 This desktop review formed the basis for the updated output report, feeding into Tasks 3 and 4.

Task 2b: Initial Stakeholder Engagement

2.6 Stakeholder engagement is a crucial step in this study, as highlighted and promoted by the NatureScot/HES Guidance. Proportionate but meaningful stakeholder engagement allows the study to benefit from local knowledge as well as building wider understanding and appreciation of the LLAs among communities and stakeholders.

2.7 Stakeholders were invited to comment on the adopted LLAs through an online consultation survey (further detail is provided in **Chapter 3**). The survey gathered responses from interested stakeholders, including community councils, community organisations, and other groups and individuals with an interest in the landscape.

2.8 The online survey was open for a 4 week window throughout October to allow reasonable time for respondents. The results of the engagement were reviewed and are summarised in **Chapter 3**. This included an initial assessment of the areas identified in feedback to consider if further study were merited. At this stage, some areas raised in feedback were scoped out of consideration. Reasons for this included:

- The areas did not meet the criteria for inclusion in an LLA;
- The areas have previously been reviewed and not included in an LLA; and/or
- The matters raised by respondents were not relevant to local landscape designation.

2.9 The results were discussed with PKC prior to proceeding with Task 3.

Task 3: Targeted Detailed Study

2.10 Key locations raised by stakeholders were subject to targeted further evaluation and study. This included location-specific field work where new areas or significant boundary adjustments were proposed and considered to merit further study. The areas visited are discussed in **Chapter 4**.

2.11 The additional areas were tested against evaluation criteria. For consistency, the criteria used in the 2014 LLA Review were retained. The 2014 criteria were developed specifically for Perth and Kinross and were agreed by the Steering Group at the time to “*identify those aspects of Perth and Kinross which the Steering Group felt would merit designation as LLAs*”⁹. These criteria are set out in **Table 2.1** below, which also sets out the criteria recommended in the NatureScot/HES Guidance and how each criterion relates to the specific criteria developed for the 2014 LLA Review. It is important to note that the NatureScot/HES Guidance does not prescribe fixed criteria that should be used but rather advocates a flexible approach to assessment criteria to ensure the criteria being used are relevant to the landscapes being assessed (paragraph 2.4.4). Therefore the approach being taken is consistent with both the 2014 LLA Review and the NatureScot/HES Guidance.

2.12 The extent to which each criterion is met, together with the level of consistency across a landscape and the overall area in which they are met, are key factors in determining whether a landscape is proposed for designation or not. Judgements stating the extent to which the ‘landscape relationships’ and ‘landscape consistency’ criteria are met are not provided as these criteria aim to identify differences in relative value within the landscape unit, and important relationships with other landscape units and designations.

Table 2.1 Criteria for the review of the LLAs

Criterion (2014 LLA Review)	Definition	Related criterion from the NatureScot/HES Guidance
Identity and sense of place	The extent to which a landscape is representative of the study area as a whole, and to which it contributes to community identity, provides a sense of place or promotes an image of	Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place - Landscape that has a strong sense of identity.

⁹ LUC in association with STAR Development Group (2014) Perth and Kinross Local Landscape Designations Review. Perth and Kinross Council, page 9.

Criterion (2014 LLA Review)	Definition	Related criterion from the NatureScot/HES Guidance
	Perth & Kinross at a local, regional or national level.	
Rarity	Landscapes which are unique to Perth & Kinross, or uncommon elsewhere.	Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place - Landscape that has a strong sense of identity.
Intactness and condition	Landscapes that are intact and distinctive, and in a good state of repair, having been unaffected by development over a considerable period of time and/or where such landscapes may be experiencing development pressure.	Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place - Landscape that has a strong sense of identity.
Wildness	The degree of perceived naturalness, lack of modern artefacts or structures, rugged or physically challenging landform and remoteness / inaccessibility.	Natural - Landscape of strong natural or semi-natural character, with clear evidence of ecological, geological or geomorphological interest.
Scenic qualities	The extent to which the landscape contains pleasing combinations of features, or to which it prompts strong sensory appeal.	Scenic - Landscape that appeals primarily to the visual senses, and is appreciate for its beauty.
Enjoyment	Landscapes which provide access and recreation opportunities for local people and visitors, as well as contribute to the health and wellbeing of these people.	Recreation and Enjoyment - Landscape recognised as offering opportunities for recreation and amenity, where experience of landscape is important. Health and Wellbeing - A landscape which makes particular contribution to both the physical and psychological health and wellbeing of a local community and/or visitors.
Built heritage assets	Landscapes in which built heritage assets have a significant influence on character or landscapes which provide key views, in to and away from, important built heritage assets.	Cultural - Landscape with clear evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interests / associations / significance, offering a time-depth to people's experience.
Cultural qualities	Landscapes which provide cultural associations such as with literature, music, art or local history or which have spiritual associations.	Cultural - Landscape with clear evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interests / associations / significance, offering a time-depth to people's experience.
Naturalness and natural heritage assets	The perceived importance to the landscape of features of natural heritage interest, including important habitats, protected sites, and features of geodiversity value.	Natural - Landscape of strong natural or semi-natural character, with clear evidence of ecological, geological or geomorphological interest.

Criterion (2014 LLA Review)	Definition	Related criterion from the NatureScot/HES Guidance
Settlement setting	Landscapes of particular importance to the setting of settlements, as a whole, or particular aspects of the settlement, including green corridors between settlements and the countryside and significant open spaces within settlements.	Important Spatial Function - Landscape that performs a clearly identifiable and valued spatial role.
Views	The extent and importance of views in and out of the landscape, including the relative visibility of the landscape from key routes and locations. Landscapes with key views from outwith Perth & Kinross's boundaries, including from the Tay Estuary.	Scenic - Landscape that appeals primarily to the visual senses, and is appreciate for its beauty.
Landscape relationships	The extent to which the landscape is associated with adjacent landscapes, potentially combining to form groupings of high value.	Important Spatial Function - Landscape that performs a clearly identifiable and valued spatial role.
Landscape consistency	The extent to which the landscape is consistent in terms of the above criteria.	Important Spatial Function - Landscape that performs a clearly identifiable and valued spatial role.

Task 4: Review and Reporting

2.13 The citations for all eleven LLAs were reviewed in detail and were updated where necessary. This review focused on the forces for change and objectives sections of the citations, since these are most likely to be subject to change. The citations as presented in the 2020 SPG differ from those in the 2014 LLA Review, so both sets have been referred to in drafting the revisions.

2.14 Boundaries were also reviewed in detail to identify:

- Land use changes that would affect the extent of the designated area;
- Planning policy changes such as amendments to settlement boundaries; and/or
- Discrepancies in the way that LLA boundaries were drawn.

2.15 Draft reports were presented to the Council for comment and discussion. NatureScot were also given the opportunity to review the emerging report. Following receipt of comments, this final report was prepared. Where changes to LLA boundaries are proposed, such changes are outlined in the updated citations in **Chapter 5** and illustrated on **Figure 1, Figure 3, Figure 5 and Figure 6**.

Chapter 3

Stakeholder Engagement

Approach to Stakeholder Engagement

3.1 As advocated by the NatureScot/HES Guidance, stakeholder engagement was carried out to inform the review process. The stakeholder engagement took the form of an online survey hosted by LUC and publicised by PKC. Following a brief introduction to the purpose and context of the LLA review, and an interactive map that presented the current LLAs, the survey was framed as a questionnaire. Respondents were asked questions about the current LLAs and their boundaries, whether any other areas should be considered in the review, and changes to the landscape.

3.2 The survey questionnaire comprised six questions as follows:

- 1.** *Do you agree with the areas defined by the current LLAs?*
 - *Please tell us why you agree or disagree.*
- 2.** *Are there any areas where you feel the LLA boundaries are incorrect? Please tell us where and why.*
- 3.** *Are there any areas you believe require more detailed review as part of this study, including any areas within or outside the current LLAs? Please tell us where and why.*
- 4.** *Do you have any additional evidence, based on the criteria, to help inform the review? We are particularly interested in perceptual / scenic qualities, and any known associations with history / arts / notable people.*
- 5.** *Do you know of any changes to the landscape, positive or negative, which have impacted the areas currently defined as an LLA, or may impact them in the future?*
- 6.** *Are there any particular areas that have been or would be affected by these changes?*

3.3 The survey was made publicly available on PKC's consultation portal allowing all interested individuals and stakeholders to engage with the consultation. The survey ran for four weeks, from 8th October to 5th November 2025, to allow a sufficient yet concise timeframe for stakeholders to provide feedback.

Results

3.4 A total of 38 responses to the survey were received. Responses were received from a broad range of stakeholders including, but not limited to, local residents, community councils and groups, energy operators and government bodies. A breakdown of respondents is provided in **Appendix A**.

3.5 Approximately two thirds (66%) of respondents believed that the current LLAs need to be reviewed, and that further areas that are not currently designated should be considered for designation. The remaining 34% believed that the current LLAs were sufficient with no further areas requiring consideration for designation.

3.6 The survey responses also highlighted some of the key changes that are being seen in the landscape, or that may be seen in the future, including consented and proposed wind farm development, proposed battery storage and housing developments, increase in commercial forestry plantations and native woodland planting, and climate change risk.

Principal areas raised in stakeholder responses

3.7 The results of the survey revealed a number of recurring areas and locations that were raised by multiple respondents. Each of these key areas is set out below, along with a summary of the feedback received in relation to each.

Upper Strathearn LLA and Glen Lednock

3.8 The survey results included comments from 16 stakeholders in relation suggesting that Glen Lednock and Glen Tarken should be included in the Upper Strathearn LLA. Survey comments noted the following:

- The location and landscape features and qualities of Glen Lednock and Glen Tarken offer great scenic, cultural and recreational value, with suggestions that the value of Glen Lednock is greater than that of the areas covered by the current Upper Strathearn LLA;
- Concerns regarding the proposed Glen Lednock and Glentarken Wind Farms, which are currently at application, and the impacts these developments could have on these glens and surrounding landscape; and
- Belief that the rationale for exclusion of these areas from the current set of LLAs should be re-examined, including responses that cited the 2014 LLA review.

3.9 In contrast to the majority of comments in relation to this area, one response commented that the special qualities identified for Upper Strathearn LLA do not extend further west into Glen Lednock or into the Keillor Forest area.

Example survey comments:

- *“The Upper Strathearn LLA omits land to the west that has equal or greater scenic value than that included. It misses landscapes that have deep cultural associations, are important for their wildlife and geology, and receive significant recreational use.”*
- *“The area [Glen Lednock and surrounding area] provides great enjoyment for access and recreation. I find the routes very scenic and the views from the route up Ben Chonzie are superb and at least as good as other areas already designated as LLAs. The excellent walking routes & attractive scenery provide significant health & well being benefits for many locals & visitors alike. As shown by the biological & geological SSSIs in the area, it has a high natural heritage value.”*
- *“The western boundary of the Upper Strathearn LLA is coincident with the boundary of the Invergeldie Estate and it is unclear to the reason for this. The boundary cuts across the defined Landscape Units as defined in the November 2014 LLA review report and the landscape value to the west (outside of the LLA) is similar, if not greater than that within the LLA. This area is surrounded by land that has some form of landscape designation (River Earn LLA, LLTNP and the Creag Garbh LLA (Stirling Council) and it is felt that this area is worthy of designation as much as the surrounding areas.”*
- *“Proposals to place wind turbines in both Glen Lednock and Glentarken which will have highly negative impacts on landscape amenity, wildlife and local businesses. The turbines will be visible from a great distance and will destroy iconic Scottish landscapes from popular viewpoints within the existing Local Landscape Areas and from National Scenic Areas nearby.”*
- *“The special qualities identified for this [Upper Strathearn] LLA do not extend further west into Glen Lednock... The scenic qualities identified within the LLA are not uniformly felt across this LLA, often in areas where it has been included based on the concentration of neolithic monuments, which have only a very localised influence.”*

3.10 Given the extent of feedback and interest in relation to the Upper Strathearn LLA, and in particular the Glen Lednock and Glen Tarken areas, **they have been taken forward for further consideration in this review**. A number of the survey comments raise potentially valid reasons that the area should be considered for designation, and these will be looked at in more detail. In addition, it is necessary to consider the findings of the 2014 review in light of comments on the consistency of the landscape qualities between areas within and outside the Upper Strathearn LLA. This area is therefore discussed at greater length in **Chapter 4** of this report.

Glen Almond and Sma' Glen LLA

3.11 The survey results included a number of comments from stakeholders in relation to the Glen Almond and Sma' Glen LLA. Such comments expressed the belief that the Glen Almond and Sma' Glen LLA should be extended west to include the upper reaches of Glen Almond. The upper section of Glen Almond was considered and recommended for designation within the 2014 LLA review however was not included in the adopted Glen Almond and Sma' Glen LLA.

3.12 In contrast, one comment states that further west within Upper Glen Almond the glen, although wilder in character, does not share the same dramatic or scenic qualities as the rest of this LLA and therefore the LLA boundary should not be extended further west.

Example survey comments:

- *"the upper section of Glen Almond, to the north is not included within the Glen Almond LLA and this should extend further west towards the Creag Garbh LLA."*
- *"the upper section of Glen Almond was not included in the Glen Almond LLA despite the recommendation: 'This area, comprising the whole of unit 22 (Glen Almond and the rugged enclosing mountains of unit 21 (Creag Liath), was therefore taken forward as a candidate LLA.'"*
- *"Further west within the Upper Glen Almond the glen widens even further (compared to the Sma' Glen) and whilst it remains a wilder part of the glen, it does not share the same dramatic or scenic qualities as the rest of this LLA. Therefore the western boundary is in the best location and should not be extended further west."*

3.13 The nature of this feedback and the geographical area in which it relates to is similar to feedback provided for the Upper Strathearn LLA, although the reasoning presented is more focused on treating the glen as a complete area, rather than offering justification based on inherent qualities. The 2014 LLA Review (paragraph 6.25) does state that the whole of Glen Almond should be considered but goes on to state clearly that *"The western boundary of the LLA was drawn to the west of Auchnafree to focus on the more intricate part of the glen."* The LLA has therefore identified the most visually diverse area of the glen. The omitted area was judged to be of lesser interest, albeit its wild character is recognised. The boundary has been reviewed and is considered to remain appropriate. There have been no changes since 2014 which would alter this conclusion.

3.14 As such, the upper reaches of Glen Almond and further changes to the boundary of the Glen Almond and Sma' Glen LLA have not been taken forward for further consideration in this review.

Glen Quaich LLA

3.15 The survey results included comments from stakeholders and members of the public in relation to the Glen Quaich LLA. Comments expressed the belief that the northern boundary of the LLA should be extended to the north-west to close the gap between this LLA and the Loch Tay LLA.

3.16 In contrast, one comment states that other glens surrounding Glen Quaich do not share the same qualities than that of Glen Quaich.

Example survey comment:

- *"There is a very odd gap between Glen Quaich and Loch Tay landscape areas. Knowing this "gap" well it is extraordinary that this area was not included."*

3.17 The 2014 LLA Review identified Glen Quaich and Loch Tay as areas meriting designation. The boundaries of these areas were drawn to enclose the relevant areas, and were based on ridge lines that visually contain them. This is set out in paragraphs 6.13 and 6.23 of the 2014 LLA Review, for Loch Tay and Glen Quaich respectively. These boundaries have been reviewed and are considered appropriate. There are no changes since 2014 that would indicate that different boundaries should be adopted.

3.18 As such, changes to the boundary of the Glen Quaich LLA have not been taken forward for further consideration in this review.

Ochil Hills LLA

3.19 The survey results included numerous comments from stakeholders proposing extensions to the Ochil Hills LLA, and highlighting development pressures in the area.

3.20 Survey comments noted the following:

- Interest in extending the southern boundary to include communities located on the margins of the LLA and to meet the A91 between Glenfarg and Carnbo;
- Views that the River Devon Gorge/ Rumbling Bridge Gorge should be designated as part of the Ochil Hills LLA given the scenic, recreational and geological value of the gorge, and that the area meets most of the evaluation criteria of the 2014 review and the NatureScot and HES 2020 Guidance;
- Concerns regarding increased wind farm and solar development pressures in the Ochil Hills e.g. the consented Craighead Wind Farm and the proposed Brunt Hill and Windburn wind farms; and
- Concerns relating to increased proposals for commercial forestry plantations and improvements that could be made if felling of coniferous plantations takes place to allow expansion of native woodland.

Example survey comments:

- *“The present boundary of the Ochil Hills LLA is, in our view, largely appropriate. However, we recognise that communities situated on the margins may wish to see the boundary extended. We strongly believe that for communities to truly identify with and seek to protect LLAs, the boundaries should reflect their aspirations and wishes.”*
- *“It is logical to include the Devon Gorge in the Ochil Hills LLA...The gorge met most of the criteria used in 2014 and meets most of the criteria in the NatureScot and HES 2020 Guidance to be used now. It is a striking geological feature of high scenic value giving a strong sense of place and local distinctiveness.”*
- *“The key threat currently comes from the development of wind farms”*
- *“there are numerous proposals to plant coniferous forests, primarily using Sitka Spruce, in the Ochils. While not as damaging on the landscape as large-scale wind energy developments, an increasing number of proposals to plant more coniferous forests, primarily using Sitka Spruce, can have a negative cumulative effect.”*

3.21 The current southern boundary of the Ochil Hills LLA, which relates to the key areas raised by stakeholders, follows the A91 from Yettis o' Muckhart to Carnbo and minor roads and tracks between Carnbo and Glenfarg. This boundary remains appropriate as it still marks the line between enclosed farmland and unenclosed hills, which is a key natural threshold that defines the identity and purpose of the LLA as a designation for the Ochil Hill range. Although the farmland and more settled areas to the south of this boundary have a strong relationship with the Ochil Hills, forming the setting to one another, areas south of the current boundary represent different landscape character types, defined primarily by farmland and lowland basin. Areas on the outer southern edge of the current boundary are not considered to meet the same criteria as that of the current Ochil Hills designation.

3.22 A further area raised by stakeholders is the River Devon Gorge/ Rumbling Bridge Gorge. This area is recognised for its scenic and geological distinctiveness, as well as its habitat and recreational value. These values are well attested. This area sits within a different landscape character type to the Ochil Hills, and is not closely related, being an enclosed wooded valley. In comparison to the Ochil Hills, the Devon Gorge is characterised as a small scale incised river valley and does not exhibit the special qualities for which the Ochil Hills are designated (see **Chapter 5**). As such, it is not considered appropriate for this area to be included as part of the Ochil Hills LLA which serves to specifically designate the hill range. The gorge is also separated from the Ochils by intervening settlement and low-lying agricultural land, and is therefore not an intrinsic part of the Ochil Hills.

3.23 It is acknowledged that the River Devon Gorge/ Rumbling Bridge Gorge does meet some of the evaluation criteria on its own merit. The extent of the area that would meet the criteria is considered to be very localised and not to a scale that would be considered appropriate for designation as a separate LLA, particularly as a substantive part of the river valley is outside the PKC area.

3.24 Overall, the areas raised in relation to the Ochil Hills LLA have not been taken forward for further consideration in this review.

Cleish Hills

3.25 The survey results included a number of comments from stakeholders expressing the opinion that the Cleish Hills should be designated as an LLA. The comments are driven by the omission of the Cleish Hills in the 2014 review, with respondents noting their belief that the Cleish Hills met most of the evaluation criteria from the 2014 review and one comment also noting that the Cleish Hills were designated as a AGLV in the 2004 Kinross Local Plan. Further comments also discuss the role of the Cleish Hills in providing a setting to the Loch Leven basin.

Examples survey comments:

- *“the Cleish Hills, having been AGLV's (Area of Great Landscape Value) in the Kinross Local Plan 2004, should have been included as an LLA in LDP 2014 and supplementary guidance. The [respondents] view remains that Cleish Hills still fulfill many of the criteria used at that time and again in this review and are worthy of designation.”*
- *“The Cleish Hills are a beautiful unspoilt hill area with fantastic views over to Edinburgh, the Pentlands, East over Loch Leven and West down the Valley to the William Wallace monument near Stirling. It provides great walking trails for the local community. The Nivingstone Crags are a feature of the area.”*

3.26 The Cleish Hills were not recommended as an LLA in the 2014 LLA Review, and are not included in the Loch Leven and Lomond Hills LLA . The reasons for this include the separation of the Cleish Hills from Loch Leven, in contrast with the adjacent Bishop Hill and Benarty.

3.27 The Cleish Hills **has been taken forward for further consideration in this review** given the degree of interest across the feedback and the area's previous status as an AGLV.

Additional Comments

3.28 In addition to the above, a number of miscellaneous comments were provided by respondents which did not fall into one of the key areas above. Such comments were not considered further in this review due to one of or a combination of the following reasons:

- The comment was too high level or did not provide sufficient detail to be considered further;
- The comment related to aspects or concerns that are not relevant to the purposes of LLA designation;
- The comment demonstrated overall satisfaction with the current set of LLAs and their boundaries; and
- Limited overall feedback in relation to an issue and therefore not considered to be of wider public interest.

Comments on Policy Context

3.29 A number of comments were made in relation to the policy context of the LLAs which has changed since the 2014 review, namely due to the adoption of NPF4. An overview of the key changes relevant to the LLAs as a result of NPF4 is set out in **paragraph 1.7** of this report.

Chapter 4

Review of Additional Areas

4.1 This chapter considers further the two key areas raised by stakeholders, as set out in **Chapter 3**. For each area, the report presents information on the reasons for consideration, any key changes since the 2014 review, and consideration of the area in relation to the NatureScot and HES 2020 guidance and NPF4. A conclusion on whether the area is recommended for designation or not, through either extension of an existing LLA or creation of a new LLA, is also provided.

Upper Strathearn LLA and Glen Lednock

Stakeholder Interest

4.2 As summarised in **Chapter 3**, the survey results demonstrated a high level of stakeholder interest in the Upper Strathearn LLA and its omission of areas to the west, in particular Glen Lednock and Glen Tarken. The stakeholder feedback expressed a high level of interest in extending the boundary of the Upper Strathearn LLA to include these areas.

4.3 Interest in these areas was driven by the following key points:

- Stakeholder opinion that Glen Lednock, Glen Tarken and the undesignated area surrounding Ben Chonzie offer great scenic, cultural and recreational value, with some belief that such value of the Glen Lednock area is greater than that of the areas covered by the current Upper Strathearn LLA; and
- Concerns relating to proposed wind farms developments within Glen Lednock and Glen Tarken and potential effects these would have on landscape and visual amenity.

4.4 Some stakeholders noted that the 2014 review recommended the Glen Lednock area for designation under the Upper Strathearn LLA, with stakeholders now expressing concern that it was not designated in the subsequent LLA adoptions. The reasons for not including this area in the 2014 review are not fully clarified in the 2014 report, but that was the outcome agreed by the Council at the time. The area is being re-considered in this review.

Changes since 2014 Review

4.5 Since the 2014 review, there have been limited large scale changes to or within the landscape of the current Upper Strathearn LLA that would affect the integrity of the designation or its fulfilment of the relevant criteria within the updated NatureScot and HES 2020 guidance. Outside the LLA, changes in Glen Lednock since 2014 include native woodland planting that has taken place in the glen, with further native woodland planting proposed, as well as consented peatland restoration works in the upper reaches of the glen.

4.6 The proposed Glen Lednock and Glentarken Wind Farms form notable changes to the development pressures within these areas, with wind farm development not previously noted as a pressure here. The wind farm proposals are not consented at the time of writing. It is unlikely that introduction of local landscape designation would alter the outcome of the planning decision in relation to these applications.

Designation Considerations

4.7 'Search Area A' has been defined to help focus the review on the key areas around Glen Lednock raised by stakeholders. The search area extends west from the western edge of the existing Upper Strathearn LLA, across Glen Lednock and Glen Tarken and meets the eastern boundary of the Stirling Council's Creag Gharbh LLA. The southern boundary of the Glen Lednock search area meets the boundary of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park (LLTNP), partially defined by the A85, as well as the northern boundary of St Fillans and the northern boundary of the River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) NSA. The northern boundary of the search area extends between Ben Chonzie (931 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD)) and Creag Uchdag (879 m AOD), following the ridgeline that falls north towards Glen Almond. The boundary of Search Area A is illustrated on **Figure 2**.

4.8 Search Area A has been assessed against the evaluation criteria set out in **Table 2.1** and the results are set out in **Table 4.1** below.

Table 4.1 Search Area A Evaluation

Criterion	Evaluation result
Identity and sense of place	<p>Search Area A meets this criterion to some extent.</p> <p>The lower extents of Glen Lednock between the Deil's Caldron Waterfall and the dam at Loch Lednock exhibits a strong identity as a rugged and dramatic upland landscape within Perth and Kinross. The glen's distinctive craggy hills contrast with smoother rolling hills (see Image 1 and 2 below) that descend towards the meandering River Lednock and scattered pockets of broadleaf and coniferous woodland, creating striking visual layers when looking north across the glen. This part of the search area serves as a strong local example of upland glen landscape within Perth and Kinross.</p> <p>The identity of other parts of the search area, including the upper reaches of Glen Lednock beyond the dam at Loch Lednock, and areas outside the glen, is less distinctive as they possess fewer dramatic or unique landscape and visual qualities.</p>
Rarity	<p>Search Area A meets this criterion to some extent.</p> <p>At the local scale, and by comparison to the existing Upper Strathearn LLA, parts of Glen Lednock offers some unique characteristics including layers of distinctive rugged and craggy hill profiles such as that of Crappich Hill (460m AOD) and the ridgeline formed by Creag Ghorm, Creag Bhuidhe and Carcase Wall (see Image 2). This quality contributes to the dramatic transition between upland and lowland along the Highland Boundary Fault, which is a unique and notable element of this part of Perth and Kinross.</p> <p>Other parts of the search area outside Glen Lednock exhibit qualities and characteristics that are less unique within this part of Perth and Kinross.</p>
Intactness and condition	<p>Search Area A meets this criterion to some extent.</p> <p>Within Glen Lednock, the landscape remains relatively intact and in good condition with no obvious evidence of landscape degradation. Existing human influence is limited and largely exists in the form of wood pole overhead lines, a small number of scattered properties and Loch Lednock Reservoir and dam in the upper reaches of the glen. Small areas of native woodland planting have been planted within the glen, helping to enhance the existing influence of native woodland along the valley floor. Further native woodland planting is also proposed. The proposed Glen Lednock Wind Farm, located on the upper south-western slopes of the glen, forms a recent development pressure within the glen, and would alter the condition of this landscape if consented.</p> <p>Other parts of the search area outside Glen Lednock also remain intact and in relatively good condition.</p>
Wildness	<p>Search Area A meets this criterion to some extent.</p> <p>Glen Lednock exhibits a strong sense of wildness due to the limited human influence, rugged hills and the distinct skylines they form. This is felt most strongly in the stretch of the glen below Loch Lednock. The exposed and craggy hill sides contribute towards a dramatic and wild character, that contrasts with more intimate lower lying parts of the glen that surround the meandering River Lednock and Invergeldie Burn, punctuated by pockets of native and mixed woodland (see Image 1 and 2). The surrounding hills also create visually striking landscape layers when looking north across the glen, further contributing to the wild and remote character.</p> <p>Beyond Glen Lednock, the surrounding hills also exhibit feelings of remoteness and wildness due to lack of human development and the larger scale of the upland landform across the Highland Boundary Fault. In the southern extents of the search area, towards Loch Earn and Strathearn, the sense of wildness reduces due to the increased presence of human influence within this area.</p>

Criterion	Evaluation result
Scenic qualities	<p>Search Area A fully meets this criterion.</p> <p>The entirety of the search area offers many scenic qualities which appeals to the visual senses. This is most strongly felt in Glen Lednock where there is a highly scenic conjunction of landscape elements which create visually striking layers within the glen. These comprise of layers of rugged hill slopes that contrast with smoother undulating landform and small pockets of native and mixed woodland and semi-improved pasture along the floor of the glen (see Image 1 and 2). The surrounding hills that frame the glen create dramatic vistas up and down the glen.</p> <p>In other parts of the search area, hill tops and ridges continue to create scenic layers of upland landform, that contrast with the more intimate glens that dissect these hills, however less so than in Glen Lednock.</p>
Enjoyment	<p>Search Area A meets this criterion to some extent.</p> <p>Throughout the search area, there are a number of Core Paths that provide access up into the hills and glens within the search area. These are frequently used by hill walkers, visitors and local communities. Glen Lednock in particular offers recreational enjoyment due to its scenic qualities and easy accessibility. The glen also provides access to the popular hill summit of Ben Chonzie.</p>
Built heritage assets	<p>Search Area A meets this criterion to some extent.</p> <p>Within Glen Lednock, the listed Invergeldie Bridge and traditional vernacular of scattered properties contribute to the traditional character and sense of heritage within the glen. The glen also contains a number of ruined townships including Glenmaik.</p>
Cultural qualities	<p>Search Area A meets this criterion to some extent.</p> <p>There are some literary associations within the search area including poems by Sir Walter Scott as well other 18th and 19th century literature which celebrated the areas scenic and recreational qualities. The search area also has associations with the Jacobites and Bonnie Prince Charlie, as well as Rob Roy McGregor. Glen Lednock also contains a historic drovers road which was a key route for leading cattle to Crieff.</p>
Naturalness and natural heritage assets	<p>Search Area A fully meets this criterion.</p> <p>The search area holds a strong sense of naturalness as it contains large expanses of natural landcover, with important habitats varying with elevation. Two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are located within Glen Lednock, designated primarily for their geological and biological importance.</p> <p>Along the southern fringes of the search area where the landscape descends to meet Loch Earn, there are pockets of ancient woodland at Glentarken Wood and Derry Wood.</p>
Settlement setting	<p>Search Area A meets this criterion to some extent.</p> <p>The southern part of the search area that meets Loch Earn and the River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) NSA forms the northern backdrop to the village of St Fillans with the wooded slopes of Glen Tarken Wood and exposed hills slopes forming the skyline.</p> <p>Remaining parts of the search area have limited intervisibility or visual relationships with nearby settlements.</p>
Views	<p>Search Area A fully meets this criterion.</p> <p>The entirety of the search area offers many scenic views. Within Glen Lednock views are generally contained within the glen however are wide, expansive and dramatic due to the surrounding rugged hills that frame long ranging vistas up and down the glen (see Image 1).</p> <p>In other parts of the search area, hill summits offer scenic and expansive views across the remote upland landscape between the Upper Strathearn LLA and Stirling Council's Creag Gharbh LLA. Intervisibility with Loch Earn to the south and the River Earn (Comrie to St</p>

Criterion	Evaluation result
	Fillans) NSA also allows for scenic views and provides a wider scenic setting to the search area.
Landscape relationships	<p>Search Area A area has a spatial relationship with surrounding designations, including the Upper Strathern LLA to the east, Creag Gharbh LLA to the west, and the River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) NSA and LLTNP to the south. This area forms the setting to these designations and shares a number of the same qualities as these designations including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dramatic transition between highland and lowland owing to the landform of the Highland boundary fault ■ Distinctive rugged and bare rocky hills and a strong variety of landform; ■ Highly scenic combination of landscape features with dramatic open hills contrasting with more intimate woodland pockets, rivers and waterfalls and farmland; ■ Scenic and expansive views within glens and from hill summits.
Landscape consistency	<p>The search area meets most of the criteria to some degree. The entire search area fully meets the 'Scenic qualities', 'Naturalness and natural heritage assets' and 'Views' criteria. For most of the remaining criteria, the lower part of Glen Lednock fulfils them to the greatest extent, with remaining areas beyond Loch Lednock dam and outside the glen meeting them to a lesser extent.</p>



Image 1: View looking north-west along Glen Lednock from Funtulich



Image 2: View looking north-west towards Balnacoul Castle and the craggy hill profile formed by Creag Ghorm, Creag Bhuidhe and Carcase Wall on the western side of Glen Lednock

Evaluation Summary and Recommendation

4.9 Search Area A meets most of the above criteria to some degree. The entire search area fully meets the ‘Scenic qualities’, ‘Naturalness and natural heritage assets’ and ‘Views’ criteria. For most of the remaining criteria, the lower section of Glen Lednock, between the existing Upper Strathern LLA boundary and Loch Lednock, fulfils them to the greatest degree, with remaining areas beyond the dam at Loch Lednock and areas outside the glen meeting them to a lesser extent. The physical and perceptual qualities of Glen Lednock including layers of rugged hill slopes contrasting with smoother undulating landform and pockets of woodland along the valley floor, as well as dramatic and expansive vistas up and down the glen contribute to its distinctive character. The glen is also highly valued by local communities and visitors for its recreational provision, with many using the glen to access popular hill summits or for recreational activities within the glen itself.

4.10 Taking account of the evaluation results, it is recommended that the lower part of Glen Lednock between the existing Upper Strathern LLA boundary and Loch Lednock is considered for designation as an extension to the Upper Strathearn LLA. The recommended area is illustrated on **Figure 3**. The boundary of the recommended area has been defined to include the part of Glen Lednock that meets the criteria to the greatest extent. The area contained within the boundary exhibits qualities relating to wildness, naturalness, scenic views and enjoyment to the highest degree, and most strongly relates to the surrounding designations, reflecting many of the same qualities for which the Upper Strathern LLA and the River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) NSA are designated. It also reflects the setting of the popular Munro of Ben Chonzie and the western and southern slopes used to access this Munro. The remaining parts of Search Area A have not been recommended for designation as it is considered that these areas do not meet the criteria to the same degree, and to a less consistent level across the search area. Upper Glen Lednock and Glen Tarken are more typical of upland glens which can be found across Highland Perthshire and more widely, and do not exhibit the visual diversity present within the recommended area.

Cleish Hills

Stakeholder Interest

4.11 As summarised in **Chapter 3**, the survey results demonstrated a high level of stakeholder interest in designating the Cleish Hills as an LLA.

4.12 Interest in these areas was driven by the following key points:

- Stakeholder opinion that the Cleish Hills met most of the evaluation criteria from the 2014 review; and
- Recognition that the Cleish Hills were designated as an AGLV in the 2004 Kinross Local Plan.

Changes since 2014 Review

4.13 The Cleish Hills were not recommended for designation in the 2014 review. Since 2014, there have been limited large scale changes within the Cleish Hills.

Designation Considerations

4.14 ‘Search Area B’ has been defined to help focus the review on the key areas raised by stakeholders. The Cleish Hills search area covers the extent of the Cleish Hills within the Perth and Kinross local authority area, with the western boundary defined by the adjoining Cleish Hills LLA in the Fife local authority area, and the northern boundary primarily defined by the Pow Burn and Gairney Water. To the south, the boundary is defined by the Perth and Kinross local authority boundary that crosses Blairadam Forest and to the east the boundary is defined by the M90. The boundary of Search Area B is illustrated on **Figure 4**.

4.15 Search Area B has been assessed against the evaluation criteria in **Table 2.1** and the results are set out in **Table 4.2** below.

Table 4.2 Search Area B Evaluation

Criterion	Evaluation result
Identity and sense of place	<p>Search Area B meets this criterion to some extent.</p> <p>The identity of the Cleish Hills is largely defined by the backdrop and setting it provides to the lowlands to the north and south, particularly the Loch Leven basin to the north-east. Although a small hill range, it provides a distinctive contrast to these surrounding lowlands. The exposed rock face of Nivingston Craigs and the craggy profile of Dumglow (379m AOD) are distinctive features that also contribute to the identity of the Cleish Hills and the local character of this part of Perth and Kinross.</p> <p>The identity of other parts of the search area is less distinctive as they possess fewer dramatic or unique landscape and visual qualities and are largely characterised by coniferous forestry.</p>
Rarity	<p>Search Area B meets this criterion to a limited extent.</p> <p>The hill range is distinctive in comparison to the lowland areas to the north however this is not a highly unique or rare feature within this part of Perth and Kinross. To the east, Benarty Hill (356m AOD) also plays a similar role in forming an elevated backdrop to the surrounding lowlands and heavily contrasts with the Loch Leven basin. The Ochil Hills to the north, which have intervisibility with the Cleish Hills, plays a similar yet more significant role as a lowland hill range in this part of Perth and Kinross.</p>
Intactness and condition	<p>Search Area B meets this criterion to some extent.</p> <p>The northern parts of the Cleish Hills around the Nivingston Craigs remain relatively intact and overall in fine condition, despite much of this area being used for grazing. In other parts of the search area, particular the western and southern extents, the landscape is dominated by coniferous forestry which although managed, is not considered an indicator of high landscape quality.</p>

Criterion	Evaluation result
Wildness	<p>Search Area B meets this criterion to a limited extent.</p> <p>The search area lacks a sense of wildness due to its intervisibility with the settled lowlands to the north and south, widespread presence of coniferous forestry and relatively well defined geometric field boundaries.</p>
Scenic qualities	<p>Search Area B meets this criterion to some extent.</p> <p>The search area offers some visual contrast between the gently undulating grazing pasture on the lower slopes and the craggy distinctive landform of Nivingston Craigs and Dumglow. Nivingston Craigs and Dumglow are also scenic features in their own right. The hill range also contributes to the scenic setting of the lowlands and Loch Leven basin to the north. Coniferous forest within the western and southern parts of the search area however do not contribute to the scenic value of the Cleish Hills.</p>
Enjoyment	<p>Search Area B meets this criterion to some extent.</p> <p>National Cycle Network (NCN) route 1 passes through the search area and there are a number of Core Paths that follow forest tracks within the areas of coniferous forestry in the western and southern extents of the search area. Dumglow is also well frequented due to the scenic and expansive views it offers over the surrounding landscape. The recreational routes and hill tops are well used and visited by members of the public and offer recreational enjoyment due to easy accessibility.</p>
Built heritage assets	<p>Search Area B meets this criterion to some extent.</p> <p>There are a number of built heritage assets including lime kilns, hill forts, including the scheduled Dumglow hill fort, and ruins which contribute to built heritage value. The remains of the scheduled monument of Dowhill Castle are located in the north-eastern extents of the search area. In the eastern extent lies the 18th century Blairadam Estate and Blairadam House which is a listed building, with its grounds designated as a Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL). Along the northern fringes of the search area lies the Cleish Castle GDL and the Cleish Village conservation area.</p>
Cultural qualities	<p>Search Area B meets this criterion to some extent.</p> <p>The search area has cultural and historic associations with Sir Walter Scott and the Adam family who were internationally renowned for their architectural legacy, as well as Mary Queen of Scots and the Jacobites. Together, these associations contribute to the cultural value of the search area.</p>
Naturalness and natural heritage assets	<p>Search Area B meets this criterion to some extent.</p> <p>The search area contains three SSSIs which are designated for their biological importance and the northern fringes of the search area contain some small pockets of ancient woodland. The geology of the Cleish Hills also holds natural heritage value due to the lava flows that have formed much of the landform, evidenced by the exposed rocky cliff faces of Nivingston Craigs. Together, these designations and features provide a level of natural heritage importance to the search area.</p>
Settlement setting	<p>Search Area B fully meets this criterion.</p> <p>The Cleish Hills provides a backdrop to the settled lowlands in the north and south and plays a key role in views from these settled areas, contributing to a strong visual relationship between them.</p>
Views	<p>Search Area B meets this criterion to some extent.</p> <p>Scenic, elevated and expansive views across the Cleish Hills and surrounding lowlands are afforded from hill tops within the search area including from the summit of Dumglow, as well as from open elevated sections of NCN route 1. In these views, Loch Leven to the north-east, Benarty Hill to the east and the Ochil Hills to the north form distinctive and scenic</p>

Criterion	Evaluation result
	features in these views. From remaining parts of the search area however, views are largely contained by coniferous forestry.
Landscape relationships	The Cleish Hills search area has a spatial relationship with surrounding designations including Fife Council's Cleish Hills LLA to the west and the Loch Ore and Benarty LLA to the east, as well as PKC's Loch Leven and Lomond Hills LLA also to the east. This area forms the setting to these designations and shares some of the same qualities as the existing Fife Cleish Hills LLA including the presence of distinct hills and cultural qualities.
Landscape consistency	The Cleish Hills search area meets most of the criteria to some degree however at different extents across the search area. The entire search area fully meets the 'Settlement setting' criterion however remaining criteria are partially met in localised parts rather than at a consistent level across the whole search area. The 'Rarity' and 'Wildness' criteria are met at the lowest level.

Evaluation Summary and Recommendation

4.16 Search Area B meets most of the criteria to some degree. The entire search area fully meets the 'Settlement setting' criterion due to its position and location within lowland Perth and Kinross, forming a backdrop to the settled areas to the north and south and Loch Leven basin to the north-east. Remaining criteria are met to a lesser extent. 'Rarity' and 'Wildness' are met at the lowest level due to the presence of other lowland hills in the locality, and intervisibility with the surrounding settled lowlands and extent of coniferous forestry which reduces the sense of wildness. The remaining criteria are not met consistently across the search area with most occurring in localised parts, namely within the northern extent. These are small and localised areas which are located within a broader landscape that meets the criteria to a lesser extent. These small and localised features, including Nivingston Crags and Dumglow, are not of sufficient scale or extent to be considered appropriate for designation as separate LLAs. Whilst the entire search area fully meets the 'Settlement setting' criterion, remaining criteria are not met at the same level or consistently across the search area.

4.17 Overall, it is considered that due to the inconsistency of criteria fulfilment, and that most of the criteria are not met to the highest degree, designation of all or part of the search area cannot be justified.

Chapter 5

Updated Citations

Introduction

5.1 This chapter sets out a review of the citations for the existing LLAs. Where necessary, updates to citation text including boundaries, statements of significance, special qualities, forces for changes and objectives have been made to reflect any changes to the current landscape within each LLA.

Rannoch Forest

5.2 This Local Landscape Area (LLA) comprises Rannoch Forest, in the north-west of Perth and Kinross, between the Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA to the west, and the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA to the east.

Boundaries

5.3 The north-western edge of the LLA follows the Council boundary north of Rannoch Station along the Sròn Leachd a' Chaorainn – Carn Dearg – Sgòr Gaibhre – Beinn a' Chumhainn ridge, before travelling south-east along the Alder Burn into Loch Ericht. Here the LLA borders the Glen Banchor, Laggan and Ben Alder LLA in the neighbouring Highland Council area. The LLA boundary follows the shoreline of Loch Ericht to the south, before skirting the edge of the conifer plantation at the foot of Sròn Bheag. The eastern boundary of the candidate LLA follows the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA boundary, formed by the ridge which runs to the west and south of Bridge of Gaur, crossing the B846 immediately to the west of the village and passing through conifer plantations and across an elevated ridgeline. At Cam Chreag the boundary turns west across the Meall Buidhe – Meall Cruinn ridge to the north of Glen Daimh, where it borders the Loch Lyon and Loch an Daimh LLA. The LLA boundary then heads north along the PKC boundary and along the eastern boundary of the Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA which is formed by the edge of a large conifer plantation and the train line.

Statement of Significance

5.4 This area comprises a key landscape of unique geography and scenic value linking two National Scenic Areas. Rannoch Moor itself is a vast and rugged glaciated plateau moorland of blanket bog, lochans, rivers and rocky outcrops, with some remnants of ancient Caledonian Pine forest. The landscape is distinctive and iconic within Perth and Kinross. Parts of Rannoch Moor have been designated as NSAs at a national level, and the Rannoch Forest LLA bridges the gap between the Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA to the west and Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA to the east.

5.5 Rannoch Forest comprises an upland landscape of dramatic mountain summits and ridges rising to the Munro summits of Carn Dearg (941m) and Sgòr Gaibhre (955m), with extensive areas of conifer plantation on the lower plateau and in the glens. There are numerous streams, and large and small lochans including Loch Eigheach.

5.6 The area is remote and the majority is relatively inaccessible, except from the B846 which terminates at Rannoch Station, a popular starting point for walkers exploring the areas' mountain summits and woodland trails. The West Highland railway line skirts the western boundary of the LLA and is an important and scenic route for visitors to north-west Scotland. Long views to Glen Coe to the west and Schiehallion to the east can be appreciated from the road and railway, as well as from higher summits and ridges.

5.7 The area has a strongly undeveloped character, with a high degree of naturalness despite some extensive coniferous plantations. Large areas of this landscape can only be accessed on foot, via long walks across rugged terrain. Heading north-west across the area is the route of the ancient 'road to the isles', to Fort William via Loch Ossian and Loch Treig, and running south-west is the Rannoch Drove Road to Loch Talla. The LLA contains no villages or settlements, only the hotel at Rannoch Station which is a popular tourist destination at the end of the long drive across Rannoch Moor from Loch Rannoch.

Special Qualities

- Rugged moorland plateau framed by dramatic mountains
- Blanket bog, lochans, rivers and rocky outcrops
- Remote, wild and relatively inaccessible
- Historic 'Road to the Isles' track to Corroul
- Dramatic ridges and panoramic views: Beinn Pharlagain; Sgor Choinnich
- Scenic drive along the B846 to and from Rannoch Station
- Strong relationship with adjacent NSAs: long views towards Schiehallion and Glencoe

Forces for Change

- Changes in forestry management within the large coniferous plantations
- Expansion of commercial conifer plantations
- Small-scale residential or tourist development at Rannoch Station
- Hill tracks associated with conifer plantations
- Small-scale hydro schemes and associated infrastructure

Objectives

- Restore Caledonian pine and peatland mosaics in Rannoch Forest and its environs and enhance habitat connectivity
- Maintain wild land quality of the wider area
- Enhance access and raise awareness of this landscape, via Rannoch station, for a range of user groups
- Ensure any development proposals respect the vernacular architecture of the area

Loch Lyon and Loch an Daimh

5.8 This LLA includes Loch Lyon and Loch an Daimh to the north-east, at the head of Glen Lyon, and the ridge which separates them.

Boundaries

5.9 The southern boundary of the LLA follows the Council boundary, which coincides with the Glen Lochay LLA in neighbouring Stirling, and is formed by the elevated ridge separating Glen Lochay and Glen Lyon which rises to a peak at Creag Mhòr (1,047m). The western boundary follows the Beinn a' Chaisteal – Beinn nam Fuaran – Beinn a' Chuirn – Beinn Achaladair ridge along the Argyll and Bute boundary, where it coincides with an Area of Panoramic Quality. The northern boundary of the LLA follows the ridge above Glen Lyon, bordering the Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA in the west and the Rannoch Forest LLA in the east, above Loch an Daimh. The eastern boundary borders the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA, passing along the adjoining ridge line and crossing the unnamed tracks into Loch an Daimh and Loch Lyon.

Statement of Significance

5.10 Glen Lyon, the "longest, loneliest and loveliest glen in Scotland" according to Sir Walter Scott, becomes even lonelier at its western end. These two isolated upper glens, each with its own reservoir, are among the most remote parts of Perth and Kinross. They are only accessible by road at their eastern openings, where minor roads lead up to the dams.

5.11 Each of the glens is enclosed by a ring of mountains, craggy summits rising to well over 1,000m. Loch Lyon in particular is framed by Munros: Beinn a' Chreachain (1081m), Beinn Achaladair (1038m) and Beinn Mhanach (953m) to the north; and Creag Mhor (1047m) and Beinn Heasgarnich (1078m) to the south. Meall Buidhe (932m) and Stuc an Lochain (960m) watch over Loch an Daimh. The slopes of these peaks and ridges fall rapidly to the lochs, which occupy almost the whole valley floor.

5.12 The only settlement in these valleys is the tiny hamlet of Pubil. The dams, built in the 1950s, are the only significant human influence in the landscape. The Giorra Dam holds back Loch an Daimh, which absorbed Loch Giorra when the water level was raised. Lubreoch Dam at the head of Loch Lyon incorporates its own small power station. The landscape around the lochs is almost treeless, and tracks cut into the open hillsides are highly visible in places.

5.13 To the north-west of Loch Lyon is the remotest glen in the area, Gleann Cailliche. Within the glen, overlooked by Beinn a' Chreachain, is the Tigh nam Bodach, a shrine to the Cailleach, a pre-Christian goddess. This small structure houses a group of stones representing the Cailleach, her husband the Bodach, and her children. It is still regularly maintained, the stones being brought out of the house each summer. An old 'coffin road' follows the northern side of Loch Lyon and was used for carrying the dead of Glen Lyon to the kirkyard at Killin. Despite its remoteness, the area is popular with walkers, providing low-level routes around the loch sides as well as more strenuous climbs up to the Munro summits.

Special Qualities

- Remote lochs enclosed by rugged mountains and steep ridges
- Remote and wild landscape accessed only after long journey up Glen Lyon or minor road from Killin via Kenknock
- Monuments of the hydro schemes of the 1950s
- Ancient shrine of the Tigh nam Bodach in Gleann Cailliche
- Strong relationship with Glen Lyon, within the NSA to the east

Forces for Change

- Construction of further tracks across hillsides
- Upgrading of hydro-electric infrastructure
- Small-scale hydro schemes and associated infrastructure,

Objectives

- Maintain high wildness value of these remote glens
- Ensure development of tracks and estate buildings is undertaken sensitively, reflecting local materiality and vernacular
- Support for appropriate tree species and woodland expansion in the right place to suit both soil and landscape

Loch Tay

5.14 This LLA covers the length of Loch Tay within Perth and Kinross, together with its shores and enclosing ridges.

Boundaries

5.15 The northern boundary of the LLA follows the edge of the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA, from the Council boundary in the west to Fortingall in the east. It includes lower Glen Lyon to Keltneyburn, and the eastern boundary is shared with the Upper Strath Tay LLA downstream. The southern boundary follows the ridge line which marks the visual edge of the Loch Tay landscape, bordering the Creag Gharbh LLA in Stirling to the south-west. The western boundary excludes the head of the loch which is within Stirling, and lies at the edge of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.

Statement of Significance

5.16 Loch Tay stands at the head of the River Tay, the principal watercourse of Perth and Kinross. A long, sinuous loch, it stretches over 23km from Killin in Stirling to Kenmore but is rarely more than 1km across. The loch fills the valley floor, leaving little room for other land use; enclosed grazing is confined to the gentler slopes along the loch side, particularly to the north. The south shore is more wooded, though there are important areas of native woodland along both sides of the loch. Distinctive wooded gullies run perpendicular to the loch shore on either side. Coniferous plantations occupy the higher slopes at Boreland and Drummond Hill, parts of the Tay Forest Park.

5.17 The loch is framed by Ben Lawers to the north, within the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA. The hills on the south side are lower but rise to craggy summits up to 716m at Beinn Bhreac. Side glens offer glimpses into the upland beyond. Small settlements are sited at the opening of these glens, including Fearnan which gives access to lower Glen Lyon. The River Lyon loops around the north side of Drummond Hill to reconnect with the River Tay.

5.18 At the eastern end of the loch is the planned settlement of Kenmore, closely associated with Taymouth Castle which stands by the Tay to the east. The Campbells of Taymouth Castle have had a long influence on the landscape of this area, laying out the parkland around the castle and planting woodland across the surrounding glen. Much of the latter has been replaced by commercial conifer plantations, and the Taymouth Castle redevelopment involves upgrades to the golf course that occupies parkland as well as residential development within the designed landscape.

5.19 The earlier history of the area is represented by the numerous Iron Age crannogs, of which the reconstructed example near Kenmore is the best known. Loch Tay is hugely popular with tourists and visitors, being readily accessible by road and yet largely tranquil. The A827 links Perth and Kinross with the National Park to the south-west and follows a relatively elevated course offering long views of the loch and hills. Walking and cycling routes circumnavigate the loch and lead up into the upland to either side. Sailing and other water sports take place on the loch itself.

Special Qualities

- Elongated, sinuous loch, framed by steep slopes and waterfalls, all overlooked by Ben Lawers massif
- Focus for tourism, sport and recreation: walking, riding, sailing, canoeing and more
- Gateway between Perth and Kinross and the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
- Distinctive character and architecture of loch-side settlements
- Crannogs and crofting settlements hint at longevity of settlement
- Long views along and across the loch

Forces for Change

- Changes in forestry management, including felling and replanting
- Wind energy proposals and associated infrastructure
- Small-scale hydro and associated infrastructure
- Battery storage proposals
- Increased visitor access and tourist facilities and accommodation
- Small-scale expansions of settlements
- Redevelopment of Taymouth Castle and estate

Objectives

- Maintain native character of loch side woodlands, and expand coverage of deciduous woodland
- Ensure sensitive restructuring of coniferous plantations as felling regimes allow, including inclusion of native broadleaved species as per the UK Forestry Standard and edges planted in more natural forms
- Ensure high design quality of any tourist development proposed in the area, ensuring mass, scale and materiality are appropriate to the surrounding landscape and vernacular, particularly on loch side and hill side locations
- Maintain distinctive character of local buildings, such as use of stone or timber, particularly where these are in prominent roadside locations
- Ensure particular care in siting and design of potentially intrusive structures such as masts and wind turbines, including consideration of appropriate size and scale of development in relation to the underlying landform around Loch Tay and ensuring structures do not obscure the distinctive skylines around the loch formed by surrounding hills

Strath Tay

5.20 This LLA includes the Tay valley between Loch Tay and Ballinluig, including the area around Aberfeldy, Strath Tay and Grandtully.

Boundaries

5.21 To the west this LLA shares a boundary with the Loch Tay LLA, along the River Tay and River Lyon between Craig Hill and Tirinie. The northern boundary follows the ridge which climbs up from the Keltney Burn to Creag Odhar and up to Meall Tairneachan. It then runs along the edge of the Loch Tummel NSA as far as Meall a' Charra, where it turns south-east to follow another ridge to Dunfallandy Hill, descending towards Logierait. The eastern boundary crosses the Tay at Balnamuir then follows a track up the south flank of the strath. The southern boundary is formed by the lip of the plateau to the south of Strath Tay.

Statement of Significance

5.22 The River Tay is central to the identity of Perth and Kinross, the largest river in the area. As with the adjacent Loch Tay, this section of Strath Tay is at the heart of Perth and Kinross as a visitor destination. The river in this section flows across a broad floodplain, the Appin of Dull, before meandering around Aberfeldy. The strath then narrows significantly, forming a narrow and well wooded incised section which opens out once more downstream of Grandtully. The contrast between the open floodplain, with long views across and along the strath, and the narrow intimate incised sections, set this segment of Strath Tay apart from other areas further downstream. Westward views are focused on the Ben Lawers massif in particular.

5.23 The strath is framed to the south by low hills forming the edge of a moorland plateau, and rising to around 420m. To the north the hills are higher but are set further back from the strath. The ridge between Meall Tairneachan (780m), Farragon Hill (783m) and Meall a' Charra (617m) separates Strath Tay from Strath Tummel, though a lower ridge forms the immediate setting of the former. This includes Weem Hill above Castle Menzies, and the extensive forestry of Dunfallandy Hill and Dull Wood.

5.24 This section of the Tay is rich in historical associations. Stone circles and burial mounds are clearly visible on the floodplain at Dull, which is also linked to the 7th century Saint Adomnan. A long history of settlement throughout the strath is apparent in the numerous old churches as well as castles and country houses. The influence of the latter is most visible in parkland landscapes and estate buildings along the valley. The 18th century Wade's Bridge at Aberfeldy is famous in its own right, as is the Den of Moness, renamed the Birks of Aberfeldy after Robert Burns' 1787 poem. The waterfalls of Moness are a popular attraction for their scenic value, sharing several characteristics with the wooded sections of the Tay.

Special Qualities

- At the heart of Perth and Kinross, with a strong sense of place
- Transition from the wooded and settled small-scale valley, to the surrounding open upland rising to the north
- The setting for historic settlements, castles, designed landscapes, as well as Wade's iconic bridge over the Tay and the famous Birks of Aberfeldy
- Important east-west route, as well as a hub for tourism, sport and recreation
- Long views to Schiehallion and Ben Lawers, contrasting with more enclosed valley

Forces for Change

- Changes in forestry management, including felling and replanting
- Small-scale hydro and associated infrastructure
- Wind energy proposals and associated infrastructure
- Pressure for increased visitor access and tourist facilities
- Small-scale expansions of settlements
- Barytes mining

- Peatland restoration

Objectives

- Maintain native character of woodlands, and expand coverage of deciduous woodland
- Ensure sensitive restructuring of coniferous plantations as felling regimes allow, including inclusion of native broadleaved species as per the UK Forestry Standard and edges planted in more natural forms
- Ensure high design quality of tourist developments or housing proposed in the area, ensuring mass, scale and materiality are appropriate to the surrounding landscape and vernacular
- Maintain distinctive character of settlements and built development, particularly the Victorian farm buildings often prominent by the roadside
- Support initiatives to preserve field boundaries and to restore trees and woodlands in the long term
- Support initiatives to retain and enhance policy woodlands
- Ensure particular care in siting and design of potentially intrusive structures such as masts and wind turbines, including consideration of appropriate size and scale of development in relation to the underlying landform, particularly where proposed structures are located on surrounding ridgelines
- Ensure key views within and across the LLA are not obscured by intrusive structures, e.g. long ranging views along the strath and view towards Schiehallion and Ben Lawers

Ben Vrackie

5.25 This LLA is a compact group of rugged moorland hills north-east of Pitlochry, centred on Ben Vrackie, a key landmark above the Tummel Valley.

Boundaries

5.26 The western boundary of the LLA follows the eastern edge of the Loch Tummel NSA above the Pass of Killiecrankie. The NSA overlaps slightly with the southern tip of the Cairngorms National Park, and the north-western boundary of the LLA continues along the south edge of the latter, as far as Meall Breac. The eastern boundary is drawn along the Allt na Leacainn Moire, which flows south to the A924 that forms the southern boundary. To the south-west, the LLA extends to the settlement edge of Moulin and Pitlochry, and west to the A9.

5.27 A minor change to the boundary of this LLA has been made to include Ben Vrackie car park, an area that comprises a small pocket of native woodland and the northern extents of the Moulin conservation area. The updated boundary is illustrated on **Figure 5**.

Statement of Significance

5.28 Ben Vrackie, the Speckled Mountain, is an iconic summit in Perth and Kinross. At 841m it ranks as a Corbett, towering over Pitlochry and the Tummel Valley. Adjacent to the Loch Tummel NSA and the Cairngorms National Park, Ben Vrackie has a role in the wider setting of both, as well as for the Killiecrankie battle site which is now in National Trust for Scotland ownership.

5.29 Pitlochry is a key settlement to the Perth and Kinross tourist industry, a principal stopping point on the A9 it provides a wealth of visitor services. From Pitlochry, many visitors and residents choose to walk up to the Craigower viewpoint to look along Loch Tummel, crossing the golf course and woodlands within the LLA. Alternatively, they take the relatively easy climb to the summit of Ben Vrackie through a landscape of classic highland scenery, with rugged outcrops, lochans and open moorland hills, subdivided by small upland glens. Its remote character belies its proximity to the busy A9 corridor, and its relative accessibility.

5.30 The only present day settlement is at the fringes of Moulin, including the impressive houses of Baledmund and Balnakeilly with their parklands. However, the landscape was not always so empty. Traces of deserted post-medieval settlements have been identified around Glen Girnaig and above Kinnaird, where a number of Bronze Age hut circles are also evident. The area

is also important habitat for bird life, forming part of the Cairngorm Massif Special Protection Area with qualifying interests of Golden Eagle and Capercaillie.

Special Qualities

- Iconic Perthshire mountain which is ever popular with hill walkers
- Panoramic views over most of Highland Perthshire, and over Strath Tay and Strath Tummel in particular
- An essential part of the backdrop to Pitlochry when seen from within Strath Tay
- Important link to the higher, wilder hills of the Cairngorms National Park to the north
- Scattering of upland archaeology hints at the settled past of this now sparsely inhabited area

Forces for Change

- Changes in moorland management and agricultural practices, including construction of estate tracks
- Felling or planting of conifer plantations within the glens
- Footpath erosion and upgrading along popular ascents
- Residential development at the upper edges of Pitlochry and Moulin

Objectives

- Ensure tracks and other estate infrastructure is sensitivity sited and implemented
- Maintain footpaths and manage access to minimise damage to the land
- Ensure a high standard of design in any development proposals at the settlement edge, reflecting the distinctive character of Pitlochry and Moulin
- Promote creation of native woodlands across lower slopes, associated with small-scale designed landscapes and sheltered glens

Glen Quaich

5.31 Glen Quaich is a popular route across Perthshire between Strathbraan and Strath Tay due to its accessibility. The LLA includes the length of the glen from Amulree westwards, and the ridges containing the glen.

Boundaries

5.32 The boundaries of this LLA are defined by the ridge lines of the hills which frame the glen on three sides. These boundaries are drawn to link high points, from Craig Hulich above Amulree westwards across Creag Choille, Meall Dun Dhomnuill and Meall a' Choire Chreagaich. The head of the glen lies between Creag and Sgliata and Sron a' Chaoineidh. The south boundary is shared with the Glen Almond and the Sma' Glen LLA, and traverses Meall nan Eanchainn, Garrow Hill, Meall nam Fuaran and Am Bodach. The eastern boundary follows the A822 through Amulree at the opening of the glen into Strathbraan.

Statement of Significance

5.33 A classic highland glen, this area comprises a narrow upper river valley framed by open hills, and containing small-scale settlement, pasture and a loch. The glen sides rise to relatively modest summits, the highest to the south including Sron a' Chaoineidh (870m), and below 700m to the north. Irregular summit outcrops lend these hills a degree of grandeur, although the attraction of Glen Quaich is its contained, sheltered quality, in contrast to the vast scale of the surrounding uplands.

5.34 The flat glen floor is given over to pasture, with small woodlands along the River Quaich and on valley sides. Woodland and wetland fringe Loch Freuchie, which is popular for fishing and canoeing. Small coniferous plantations also add variety to the landscape. Settlements are limited to farmsteads and cottages, aside from the village of Amulree with its church and hotel. The

Beaully-Denny overhead power line is the most notable form of infrastructure, although is largely backclothed by the northern slopes of the glen.

5.35 Glen Quaich has long been settled, and long been used as a route from Loch Tay to the lowlands via Amulree. Traces of Bronze Age hut circles and a crannog are found alongside Loch Freuchie. The high pass over Glen Lochay to the south links to Glen Almond, and is today the route of the Rob Roy Way long-distance walking route. The minor road through Glen Quaich is the highlight of this area, and a popular tourist drive. From the high ground of A' Chrois, as the road descends, is a panoramic view southward along and across the glen, with Loch Freuchie as its focal point, and a backdrop of distant hills beyond.

Special Qualities

- Exemplar of a Highland Perthshire glen, combining all the 'ingredients' of open hills, farmed glen, loch, woodlands and settlement
- Tranquil, and wild in its upper reaches, yet accessible
- Scenic route from Kenmore descending from the hills into the glen, with unfolding views over Loch Freuchie
- Scenic route from Amulree ascending to high point by An Chrois with first glimpses of Loch Tay and the mountains to the north
- Opportunities for sport and recreation including the Rob Roy Way
- Remains of former settlements, a reminder of the Highland Clearances

Forces for Change

- Changes in estate management practices, including construction of tracks and felling, thinning and restructuring of plantations
- Extension of repowering of nearby wind farms, new wind farm proposals and associated infrastructure in adjacent areas
- Development of hydro-electric power schemes and associated infrastructure
- Intensification of grouse management including hill tracks
- Peatland restoration

Objectives

- Maintain open character of the glen, and views north from the glen particularly as perceived from the descent along the minor road from Kenmore
- Promote further expansion of native woodland
- Manage shores and wetlands around Loch Freuchie for benefit of habitats and biodiversity
- Preserve character of Victorian vernacular architecture, expressed in farm buildings
- Ensure particular care in siting and design of potentially intrusive structures such as masts and wind turbines, including consideration of appropriate size and scale of development in relation to the underlying landform within the glen and adjacent uplands and mitigation of adverse impacts on key views across the LLA.

Sma' Glen and Glen Almond

5.36 This LLA includes part of upper Glen Almond and the dramatic section, the Sma' Glen, which pierces the Highland Boundary Fault.

Boundaries

5.37 The boundaries of this LLA are largely defined by the ridges which form the visual edges of the glen. The northern boundary is shared with the Glen Quaich LLA, and runs from Meall nan Eanchainn to Meann nam Fuaran and Am Bodach. It turns south along the A822 then climbs the ridge of Dun Mor to the east of the Sma' Glen. The south-east boundary follows field

and woodland edges to include the opening of the glen. The southern boundary, which is shared with the Upper Strathearn LLA, crosses the Fendoch Burn then climbs the ridge to Meall Tarsuinn, across Auchnafree Hill to A' Chairidh. The western boundary crosses Glen Almond at the narrow point between Sron Challaid and Stuck Chapel Crag, continuing north to Meall nan Eanchainn.

Statement of Significance

5.38 The Sma' Glen is a gateway into the Highlands from Lowland Perthshire. A long-established strategic location, the Sma' Glen has been used by the Romans and by the 18th century General Wade for military routes: a Roman signal station and fort lie at the mouth of the glen, while the Military Road winds through to Amulree, now largely followed by the A822. Today the A822 is enjoyed by tourists and visitors, presenting an unfolding sequence of views as it enters the Sma' Glen, passes under the overhanging crags, and crosses the Almond via the 19th century Newton Bridge. Beyond Newton, tracks continue into the glen linking isolated farmsteads and cottages, with traces of deserted settlements.

5.39 An even earlier past is hinted at in the chambered cairn at Clach na Tiompan, and the standing stone long associated with the mythical bard Ossian.

5.40 The Sma' Glen itself is a small feature, a narrow chasm no more than 4km long. The deeply incised gorge is framed by steep cliffs rising to over 500m on either side, leaving a narrow flood plain overlooked by rocky slopes, too steep to permit the muirburn which patterns adjacent moors. The wooded riverside and the small plantations add to the visual diversity of the route through the glen. Parking at Newton Bridge ensures this a popular spot for photography.

5.41 Less visited the upper section of Glen Almond winds westward into the uplands. Wider than the Sma' Glen, it retains the steep sides and overhanging craggy summits, which here rise to Meall nam Fuaran (805m) and Auchnafree Hill (789m). The farmstead at Auchnafree stands in a triangle of open flood plain, with pasture and woodland. This point marks the conjunction of Glen Almond, Glen Shervie and Glen Lochan, which carries the Rob Roy Way over to Glen Quaich. Westward, the Rob Roy Way links back to Loch Tay.

Special Qualities

- A distinctive highland glen, rugged and enclosed, yet accessible to all
- The A822 through the Sma' Glen presents a series of dramatic framed views
- A historic portal from the lowlands to the highlands
- The woodland and river lend the Sma' Glen a sense of tranquillity
- Upper Glen Almond becomes increasingly wild, away from the road and closer to the mountains

Forces for Change

- Changes in estate management practices, including construction of tracks and felling of plantations
- Development of hydro-electric power schemes and associated infrastructure
- Intensification of grouse management including hill tracks

Objectives

- Promote the further expansion of native woodland along the glen, including replacement of existing conifer plantations where possible
- Maintain the high wildness value of upper Glen Almond in particular
- Seek to protect the experience of travelling through the Sma' Glen, along the A822, which is a key experience for visitors to the area

Upper Strathearn

5.42 This LLA includes areas on either side of the Highland Boundary Fault: on the lowland side, the landscape around Comrie, Crieff and Drummond Castle; on the highland side, the hills around Glen Turret.

Boundaries

5.43 The northern boundary follows the ridge to the north of Glen Turret, following the boundary of the Glen Almond and the Sma' Glen LLA from A' Chairidh east to Meall Tarsuinn, then down to the Fendoch Burn. The eastern boundary follows the ridge beside the Fendoch Burn to Gilmerton, then a minor road east of Crieff as far as Dalpatrick on the Earn. The southern boundary follows minor roads from Muthill across to Glen Artney, then north again past Cultybraggan to Comrie. The western boundary follows the boundary of the River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) NSA at Comrie. At this point, the boundary then follows the LLA boundary extension which runs north-west to Wester Top and Loch Lednock in Glen Lednock before running north-east to meet the summit of Ben Chonzie. The updated boundary is illustrated on **Figure 3**.

Statement of Significance

5.44 The Highland Boundary Fault cuts across Perth and Kinross from west to east, dividing highland and lowland as it does across Scotland. Here it is clearly and dramatically expressed where it forms the backdrop to the settlements of Comrie and Crieff in this part of Strathearn. The distinctive range of hills contrasts strongly with the well kept farmland of upper Strathearn.

5.45 The lowland section of this LLA includes the meandering River Earn as it emerges from Comrie, and the flat, open carse to the east. South of the river are low rolling hills rising to Torlum (393m); mainly clothed in deciduous and coniferous woodland, these hills incorporate rocky crags and are prominent features from the valley.

5.46 To the south-west, long views are available into Glen Artney, the continuation of the Highland Boundary Fault. The extensive wooded designed landscape of Drummond Castle is within this area, centred on the famous formal gardens by the castle, but also including the Pond of Drummond (Drummond Lochs SSSI) and part of the South Tayside Goose Roosts SPA. South of Crieff, the Earn flows on through gently rolling arable farmland, characterised by field boundary trees and lowland dykes. A strong pattern of field boundary trees and small woodlands extends across this area, linked by well maintained farmland. Neolithic monuments are scattered across this area, as well as traces of Roman occupation.

5.47 To the north of the river the landscape becomes increasingly highland in character. To the north of Crieff is The Knock, a steep wooded hill which provides an accessible and popular lookout point over the Strathearn landscape. The foothills to the north are wooded and settled, with country houses and castles. Steep, fast flowing burns descend from the hills through wooded gullies and waterfalls. The irregularity of this area gives a pleasing visual diversity, underlain by intricate geology, expressed at the Craig More SSSI near Fordie. The route of General Wade's military road can be traced north of Crieff, approaching the Sma' Glen.

5.48 As the ground rises the landscape becomes simpler, with pasture and deciduous woodland giving way to moorland and conifer plantations. Around Glen Turret the heather shows the distinctive patchwork of muirburn. Glen Turret forms the main entry point into this group of hills, with road access as far as the dam. Incised tracks cut across the east side of the loch, as far as Lochan Uaine in the deep glacial corrie below Ben Chonzie (931m), a Munro summit at the head of ridge walks either side of the Glen Turret. Loch Turret is also a destination for fishing and canoeing. West of Glen Turret lies Glen Lednock which also offers access to surrounding hills and is a popular glen for recreation. The lower part of Glen Lednock holds a sense of wildness with its rugged hill slopes that contrast with the smoother undulating valley floor, and surrounding hills that frame dramatic vistas up and down the glen.

Special Qualities

- The Highland Boundary Fault, the meeting point of upland and lowland, and a dramatic introduction to the Highland landscape
- Strong variety of landform and land cover: open mountains, glens, moorland, wooded slopes and river valley farmland
- Setting of Crieff and Comrie within the valley, backed by steep rugged hills
- Concentration of Neolithic landscape monuments

- A highly scenic conjunction of landscape elements, with many opportunities to enjoy the view
- A well managed landscape with important parkland, policy woodlands and field boundary trees

Forces for Change

- Changes in estate management practices potentially affecting the large highland and lowland estates in the area
- Felling and restructuring of forestry plantations
- Small-scale hydro and associated infrastructure
- Wind energy proposals and associated infrastructure in adjacent areas
- Construction of upland tracks
- Settlement expansion at Comrie and Crieff
- Changes in agriculture such as the increasing use of agricultural plastics

Objectives

- Ensure sensitive restructuring of forestry plantations, including inclusion of native broadleaved species as per the UK Forestry Standard and edges planted in more natural forms
- Ensure tracks and other upland estate infrastructure is sensitivity sited and implemented
- Provide interpretation for local geology and biodiversity to aid understanding of the Highland Boundary Fault landscape
- Support initiatives to retain the pattern of field boundaries and to restore trees and hedges in the long term
- Retain and enhance policy woodlands
- Support additional mixed woodland planting
- Preserve the character of Victorian roadside buildings such as farm buildings and cottages
- Ensure particular care in siting and design of potentially intrusive structures such as masts and wind turbines, including consideration of appropriate size and scale of development in relation to the underlying landform, particularly where proposed structures are located on surrounding hills and ridgelines, as well as mitigation of adverse impacts on key views across the LLA.

Sidlaw Hills

5.49 This LLA covers the Sidlaw Hills in the east of the study area, and includes part of the Carse of Gowrie as well as Moncreiffe Hill to the south of the Tay. The LLA includes the popular Kinnoull Hill on the outskirts of Perth.

Boundaries

5.50 The north-western boundary of the LLA follows the A94 from the eastern edge of Perth to Balbeggie, then a minor road towards Newtyle, turning south to follow the Angus Council boundary over the hills, and continuing south around the Rossie Priory estate to the A90 between Inchtute and Longforgan. The south-eastern boundary follows the A90 to St Madoes, then crosses the Tay at Inchyra to follow the minor road south of Moncreiffe Hill. The western boundary is drawn along the M90 through Craigend Gap and over the Friarton Bridge, then following the western settlement boundary of Perth and West Kinfauns/Walnut Grove.

Statement of Significance

5.51 The Sidlaws are a range of igneous hills, dividing the Firth of Tay from the agricultural landscape of Strathmore. At their south-west end the hills are expressed as dramatic cliffs overlooking the Tay as it winds its way out of Perth. Although rising in elevation towards the north-east, the hills generally become less dramatic as the range approaches the Angus Council boundary. Within the hills are a series of sheltered hidden valleys, not viewed from outside but containing arable farmland in

contrast to the hill pastures which make up the majority of the landcover. There is a strong network of woodland across the hills, including a large amount of policy woodland.

5.52 The southern flank, the Braes of the Carse, retains an important relationship with the adjacent Carse of Gowrie. Distinctive summits along the north side include King's Seat and Dunsinane. The latter, best known for its association with Macbeth, has one of a large number of Iron Age hill forts that are scattered across this area. Other historic features include deserted medieval farmsteads and settlements along the foot of the Braes, and the drove roads linking them with Strathmore. The remaining settlements along the Braes of the Carse retain their historic character, and alternate with the country houses and designed landscapes which spread across the hills and the carse, including Kinfauns and Fingask.

5.53 Kinnoull Hill is the southern end of the Sidlaw range. Comprising open space and woodland it is readily accessible from Perth and forms a key setting to the city. The sheer cliffs on the south side hang above the Tay and the M90, accentuated by the 18th-century tower. Across the Tay is Moncreiffe Hill, separate from the Sidlaws but continuing the igneous geology and steep south-facing scarp. This stands above the Earn and marks the southern approach to Perth via the Craigend Gap. Moncreiffe is also topped with a hill fort, with later castles and country houses on its slopes.

Special Qualities

- Volcanic hills with distinctive south-east facing scarps and braes
- Important backdrop and setting to Strathmore, Perth, the lower Tay and the Carse of Gowrie
- Accessible sport and recreation adjacent to the city of Perth, with prominent viewpoints at Kinnoull Hill and Moncreiffe Hill
- Rich heritage of hill forts and castles and designed landscapes
- Hidden glens behind the braes, away from the more prominent hills
- Characteristic hillfoot villages of the Carse of Gowrie, backed by the steep wooded Braes of the Carse
- The drama of the cliffs, woodland and tower at Kinnoull Hill, high above the motorway and the cliff extending beyond towards Dundee

Forces for Change

- Development pressures around the edge of Perth and Scone
- Changes in farm management for example use of agricultural plastics or construction of large farm buildings
- New buildings and small-scale settlement expansion in villages
- Wind energy and solar farms with their associated infrastructure
- Expansion of existing forestry

Objectives

- Seek to manage and expand woodland cover with native species in glens thus strengthening the woodland network which already exists
- Ensure high design quality of new development in this landscape, ensuring mass, scale and materiality are appropriate to the surrounding landscape and vernacular
- Ensure long-term maintenance of policy woodlands and designed landscapes, whether listed on an inventory or otherwise, which make a strong contribution to this area
- Preserve distinctive character of small villages along the Braes of the Carse
- Ensure particular care in siting and design of potentially intrusive structures such as masts and wind turbines, including consideration of appropriate size and scale of development in relation to the underlying landform, and avoidance of structures on prominent hills and on exterior slopes of the Sidlaws where intervisibility with the surrounding landscape is greatest.

Ochil Hills

5.54 This LLA includes the whole of the Ochil Hills range, which lies between Strathearn and the Loch Leven basin. The western Ochils are locally designated in neighbouring Stirling and Clackmannanshire, and this LLA extends this across the width of Perth and Kinross.

Boundaries

5.55 The northern edge of the Ochils is formed by the Strathallan and Strathearn valleys. The boundary for the LLA is drawn along the A9 from Greenloaning, past Blackford to Gleneagles from where the railway line forms the boundary. The LLA therefore includes Dunning and Forteviot, from where the boundary runs along the B935 then along minor roads to Aberargie, then the A913 through Abernethy to the Council boundary at Newburgh. The Council boundary runs south over Pitmedden Forest then south-west to Glenfarg. The south boundary of the LLA follows minor roads and tracks between Glenfarg and Carnbo, marking the line between enclosed farmland and unenclosed hills. From Carnbo to Yetts o' Muckhart the boundary is drawn along the A91 at the foot of the hills. The western boundary follows the Council boundary across the hills and glens to Greenloaning, bordering the **Western Ochils LLA** in Stirling and the **Ochil Hills LLA** in Clackmannanshire.

Statement of Significance

5.56 The Ochils are the most significant hill range in central Scotland, cutting dramatically across the lowlands between Forth and Tay. Although the dramatic scarp of the Ochil Fault lies largely outside Perth and Kinross, the westward expanse of the hills forms a major feature in the area, contributing to the setting of both Kinross-shire to the south and Strathearn and Strathallan to the north. The Ochils are at their broadest in Perth and Kinross.

5.57 Reaching 632m at Blairdenon Hill in the west, the hills gradually diminish towards the east. However, they retain their relative prominence, with hills such as Pitcairnie (282m) forming a landmark above Abernethy. The hills are dissected by many small-scale glens, which wind into the upland from north and south. These range in scale from the picturesque Glen Farg to the broad Glen Devon – Glen Eagles which carries the A823 right across the range. These deep glens result from glacial meltwater action following the last ice age.

5.58 To the north the foothills around Dunning and Forteviot provide setting to the hills, and also have strong historical associations with the Ochils. Forteviot is linked to the Pictish monarchy and has been at the centre of archaeological investigations in the area. Hill forts occur across the Ochils, as well as castles and country houses on lower ground.

5.59 The landcover of the hills is generally open moorland of grassland and some heather. The unenclosed landscape has an exposed character in contrast to the sheltered glens with their enclosed pastures. Several upper glens have been dammed to form reservoirs, and there are extensive coniferous plantations, yet significant wildness qualities remain in many locations, without being substantially affected by the wind farms and masts which are seen on hill tops. Projects to expand native woodland have restored areas of juniper to Glen Devon.

5.60 The Ochils form a backdrop to a whole series of communities to north and south, and have a clear identity as a distinct landscape feature. Their accessibility and proximity to many settlements ensures they are well used for numerous forms of outdoor sport and recreation.

Special Qualities

- Prominent band of hills forming a both a barrier and a gateway between Perthshire and Kinross-shire, and the setting to both
- Relatively wild and tranquil, yet readily accessible and with good provision for a range of users
- Extensive natural landcover of heather moorland, grassland and woodland
- Distinctive southern scarp slopes, steep interior glens
- Though there are few distinctive peaks, there are many accessible summits and viewpoints
- Rich in features of geological and historical interest

Forces for Change

- Changes to forestry management and felling of coniferous plantations
- Expansion of coniferous forestry and native woodland
- Development of single wind turbines repowering of wind farms, and new wind farm proposals and associated infrastructure
- Development of pylons and other tall structures and solar farms and associated infrastructure.

Objectives

- Continue expansion and management of native woodlands and seek sensitive restructuring of coniferous plantations where opportunities arise, including inclusion of native broadleaved species within coniferous plantations as per the UK Forestry Standard and edges planted in more natural forms
- Proposals for masts, turbines and solar farms should not have an adverse impact on the special qualities of this sensitive environment
- Ensure particular care in siting and design of potentially intrusive structures such as masts and wind turbines, including consideration of appropriate size and scale of development in relation to the underlying landform, and avoidance of structures on prominent hills and on exterior slopes of the Ochils where intervisibility with the surrounding landscape is greatest.
- Preserve historical landscapes, including features such as dykes and rig-and-furrow as well as the scheduled hill forts
- Maintain the character of vernacular buildings within settlements and dispersed across the hills

Loch Leven and Lomond Hills

5.61 This LLA is centred on Loch Leven in the south of the study area. The LLA includes the western edge of the Lomond Hills and the northern edge of Benarty, which enclose the loch to the east and south.

Boundaries

5.62 The western boundary of this LLA follows the B996 from the Council boundary at Kelty northwards to Kinross. The LLA boundary follows the western edge of Kinross, though including areas within the settlement boundary which are associated with the loch: Kirkgate Park; Kinross House; and Kinross Golf Course. The northern boundary follows the Milnathort settlement boundary, then the B996 to Arlary. It continues along a minor road past Killyford Bridge to Muirs of Kinnesswood. The boundary then follows the Council boundary over the western end of the Lomond Hills to Auchmuirbridge, bordering the Lomond Hills LLA in Fife. Turning westward it follows the River Leven and across Benarty, along the edge of the Loch Ore and Benarty LLA in Fife, to Kelty.

5.63 A minor change to the boundary of this LLA has been made to include Loch Leven car park, which is important to the recreational amenity of the LLA. The updated boundary is illustrated on **Figure 6**.

Statement of Significance

5.64 Loch Leven is a feature of central significance within Perth and Kinross, and is important in Scottish history generally. Its deep links with historical events give rise to strong associations with the monastic heritage of Scotland and with the life of Mary, Queen of Scots. Framed by the dramatic slopes of Benarty to the south and Bishop Hill to the east, Loch Leven is also a highly scenic location, readily accessible and visible to residents, visitors and those passing on the M90.

5.65 Loch Leven itself covers around 13km², following a reduction in the water level in the 19th century, and remains one of the largest lochs of lowland Scotland. It contains two small islands. St Serf's Inch is the site of a priory founded in the 11th century, replacing an earlier monastic community, and which was occupied until the 16th century. Loch Leven Castle is located on the smaller Castle Island, and was long a property of the Douglas family. Mary, Queen of Scots was imprisoned here in the 16th century. At the end of the 18th century Sir William Bruce built Kinross House on the loch side, aligning his gardens towards the castle in a gesture combining history and landscape.

5.66 The parkland surroundings of Kinross House dominate the western side of the loch, separating the settlement from the waterside. The other shores are lined with native woodland or open farmland, with large areas of wetland habitat for migrating birds at the National Nature Reserve and RSPB's Vane Farm Reserve and Visitor Centre. It is also a Ramsar Site, SPA and SSSI. A footpath and cycleway now runs around the entire circumference of the loch, with artworks placed along the route.

5.67 To the south the land rises sharply to the distinctive hill of Benarty which lies on the Fife boundary. To the east similarly steep hills rise above Kinesswood and Scotlandwell to the crags of Bishop Hill and Munduff Hill. Both hill groups offer accessible walking and panoramic views over Kinross-shire and beyond. Between the hills the River Leven exits the loch via the 19th century sluice house.

Special Qualities

- Contrast between the broad, flat loch, farmed foothills and steep surrounding hills
- Striking and dramatic form of Benarty and the Lomond Hills seen from the loch side, from Kinross and the M90
- Historically a focus for human settlement and land use, with a key relationship between Kinross, Kinross House and Loch Leven Castle
- Essential sport and recreation resource for the region, suiting a broad range of users, e.g. gliding and bird watching as well as walking and cycling
- The expanse of open water fringed with wetland with wooded fringes providing an internationally important ecological habitat for birds is recognised and widely appreciated

Forces for Change

- Changes in farm management around the loch shore, for example use of agricultural plastics
- Wind turbines and solar farm proposals and associated infrastructure
- Increase in naturalised wetland and woodlands
- Management of forestry plantations at Munduff Hill including the timing of felling and restocking with appropriate species consistent with the UK Forestry Standard
- Expansion of settlements within and adjacent to this area, e.g. Milnathort, Kinross, and Scotlandwell
- Additional recreational development, e.g. new footpath links and additional car parking facilities

Objectives

- Maintain accessibility of this area for diverse user groups, and for diverse sport and recreational uses from bird watching to gliding
- Retain and expand native woodland coverage around the loch and on the adjacent hills while retaining the dramatic open landform
- Maintain special character of lochside buildings and designed landscape features, including those not listed on the Historic Scotland Inventory
- Manage agricultural land around the loch to provide benefits for biodiversity and habitats
- Increase the extent of wetland around the loch in order to enhance this internationally important wildlife site
- Ensure particular care in siting and design of potentially intrusive structures such as masts and wind turbines, including consideration of appropriate size and scale of development in relation to the underlying landform surrounding Loch Leven, as well as mitigation of adverse impacts on key views across the LLA.

Appendix A

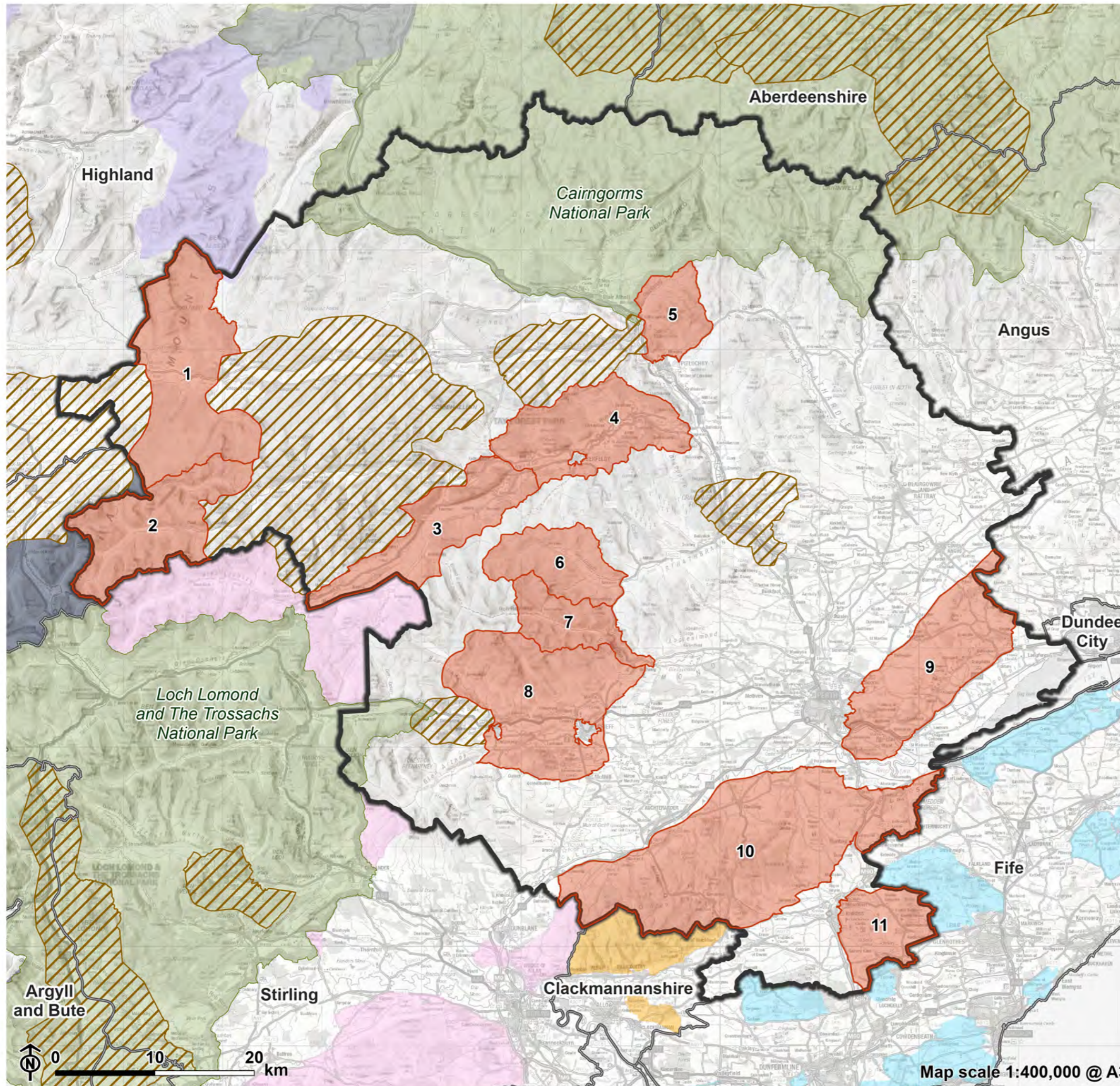
Consultation




A.1 The following organisations responded to the consultation exercise described in **Chapter 3**:

- Cleish and Blairadam Community Council
- Cleish Village Hall Association
- Fossoway and District CC
- Friends of the Ochils
- Glenlyon and Loch Tay Community Council
- Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust
- Save Glen Lednock Group, Comrie
- Scottish Power Renewables
- Stephenson Halliday, on behalf of Low Carbon Limited
- The Coal Authority

A.2 In addition there were 21 responses from named individuals, and seven responses which were submitted anonymously.

Figure 1. Local Landscape Areas



-  Perth & Kinross
-  Neighbouring authority boundary
-  Proposed Perth & Kinross Local Landscape Area

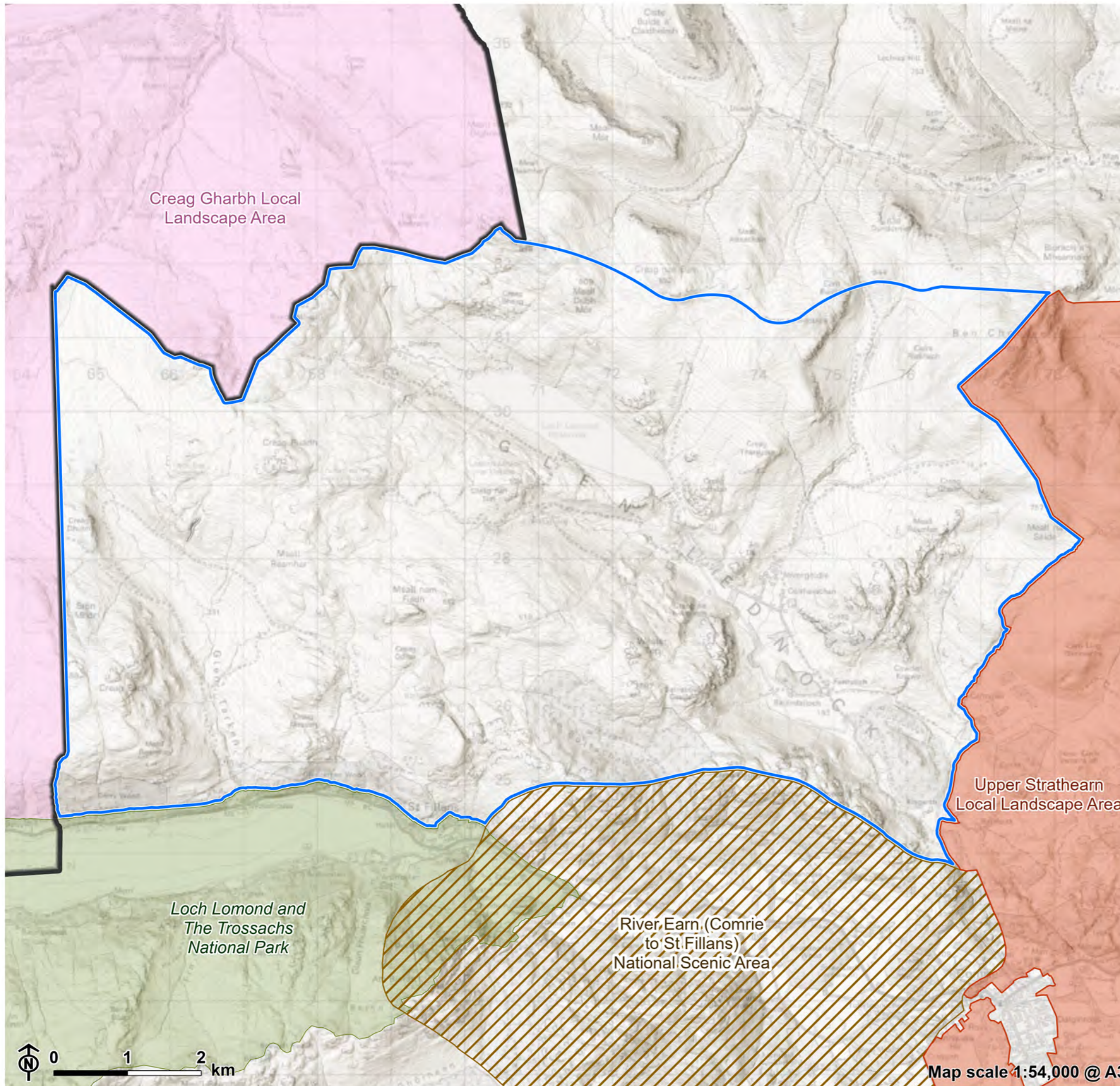
- 1 - Rannoch Forest
- 2 - Loch Lyon and Loch an Daimh
- 3 - Loch Tay
- 4 - Strath Tay
- 5 - Ben Vrackie
- 6 - Glen Quach
- 7 - Sma' Glen and Glen Almond
- 8 - Upper Strathearn
- 9 - Sidlaw Hills
- 10 - Ochil Hills
- 11 - Loch Leven and Lomond Hills

Existing landscape designations

-  National Park
-  National Scenic Area
-  Stirling Local Landscape Area
-  Argyll and Bute Local Landscape Area
-  Fife Local Landscape Area
-  Highland Special Landscape Area
-  Clackmannanshire Local Landscape Area

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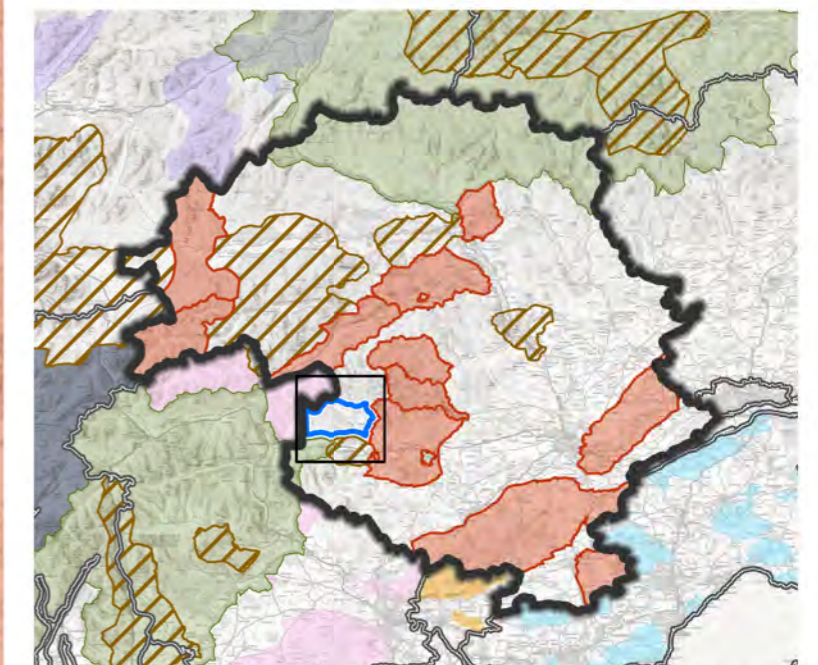
Figure 2. Search Area A



- Perth & Kinross
- Search area A
- Existing Perth & Kinross Local Landscape Area
- National Park
- National Scenic Area
- Stirling Local Landscape Area

This figure should be viewed in conjunction with Figure 1.

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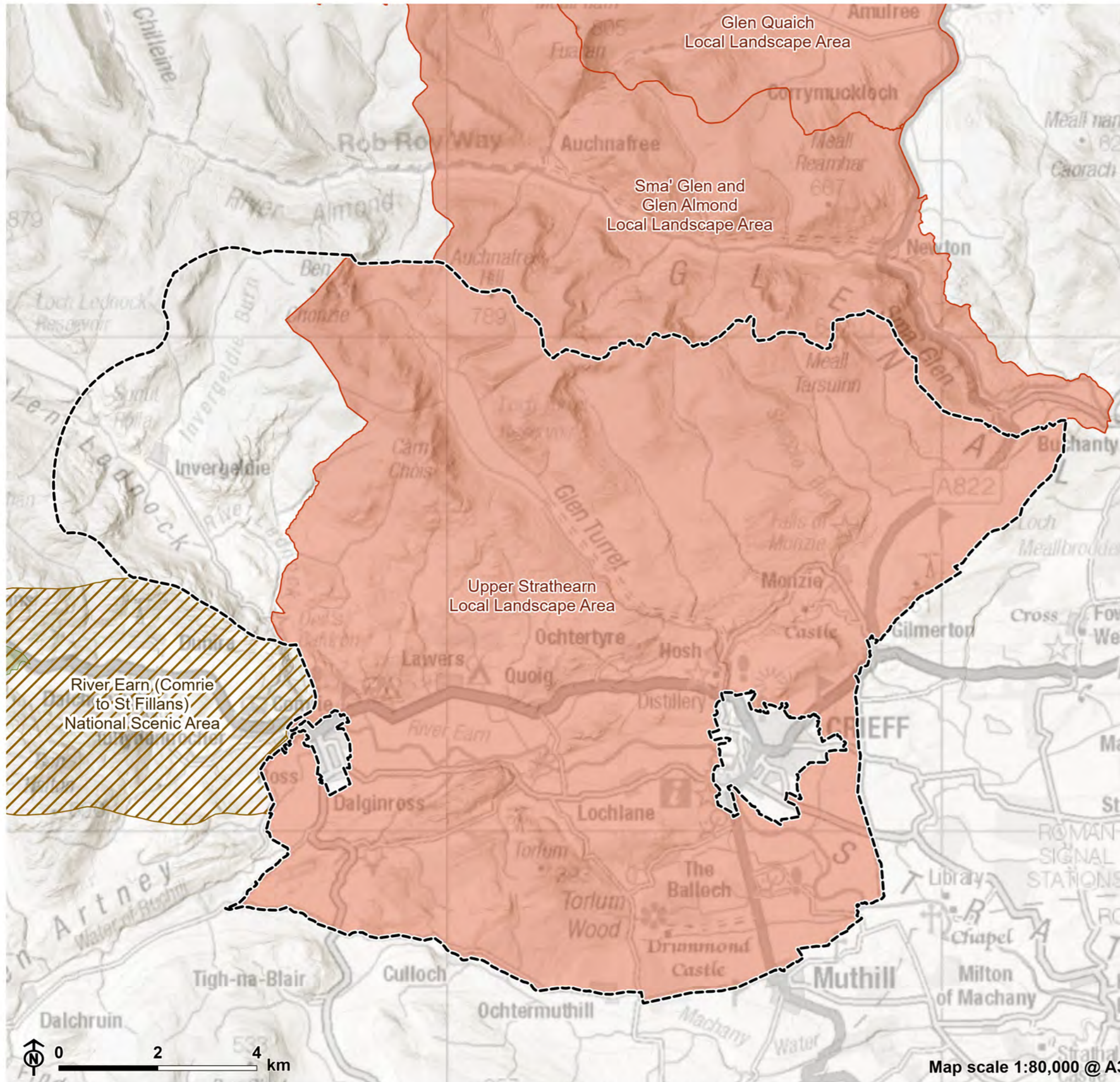
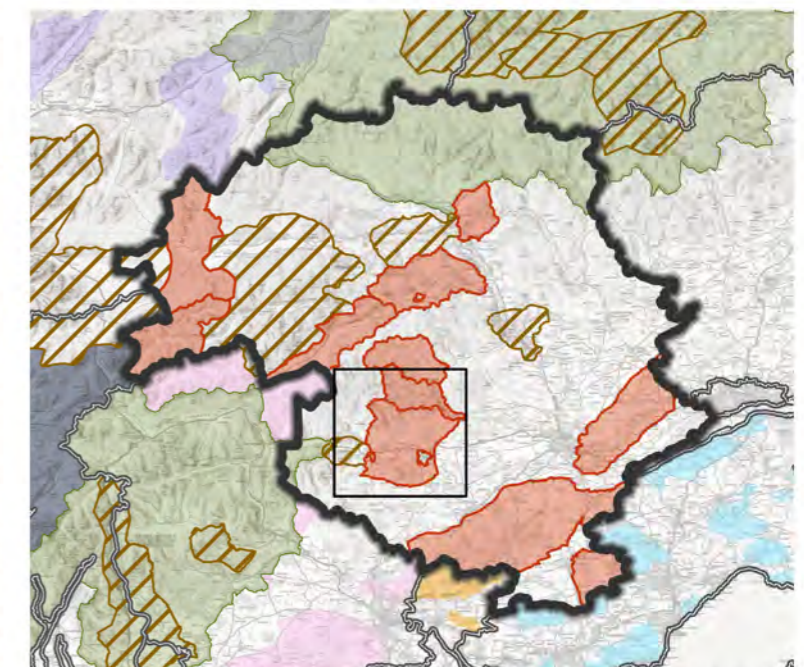


Figure 3. Proposed Extension to Upper Strathearn Local Landscape Area

- Existing Local Landscape Area
- Proposed Local Landscape Area boundary
- National Scenic Area

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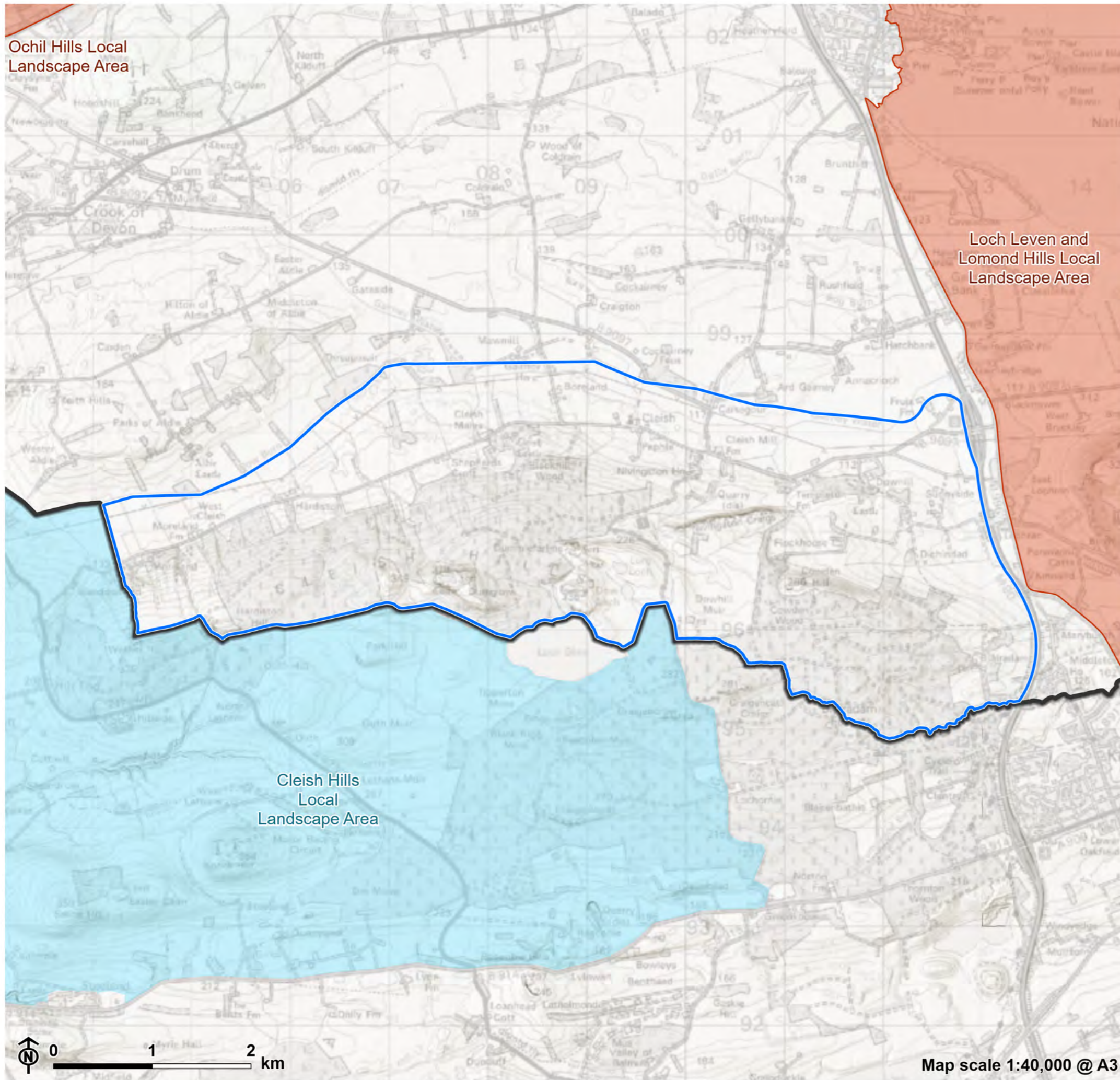
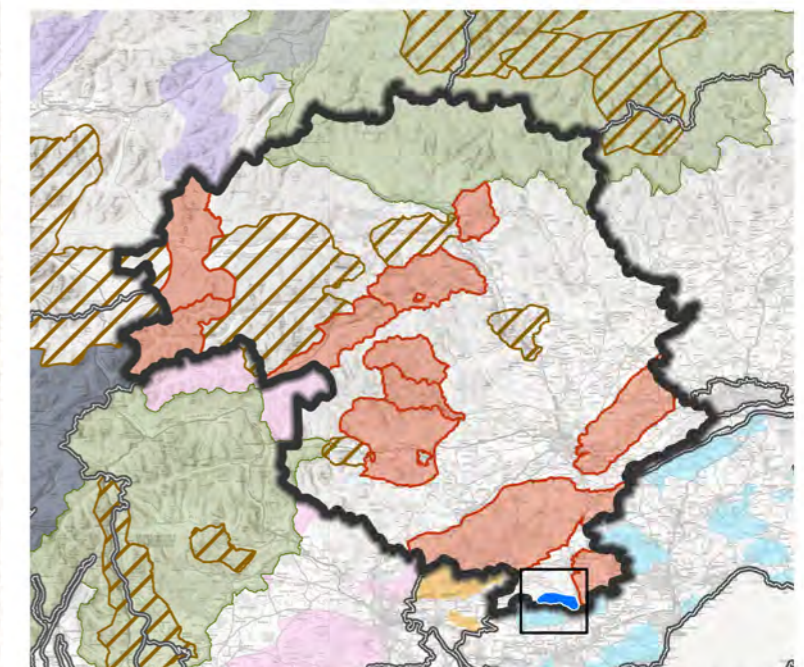


Figure 4. Search Area B

- Perth & Kinross
- Search area B
- Existing Perth & Kinross Local Landscape Area
- Fife Local Landscape Area

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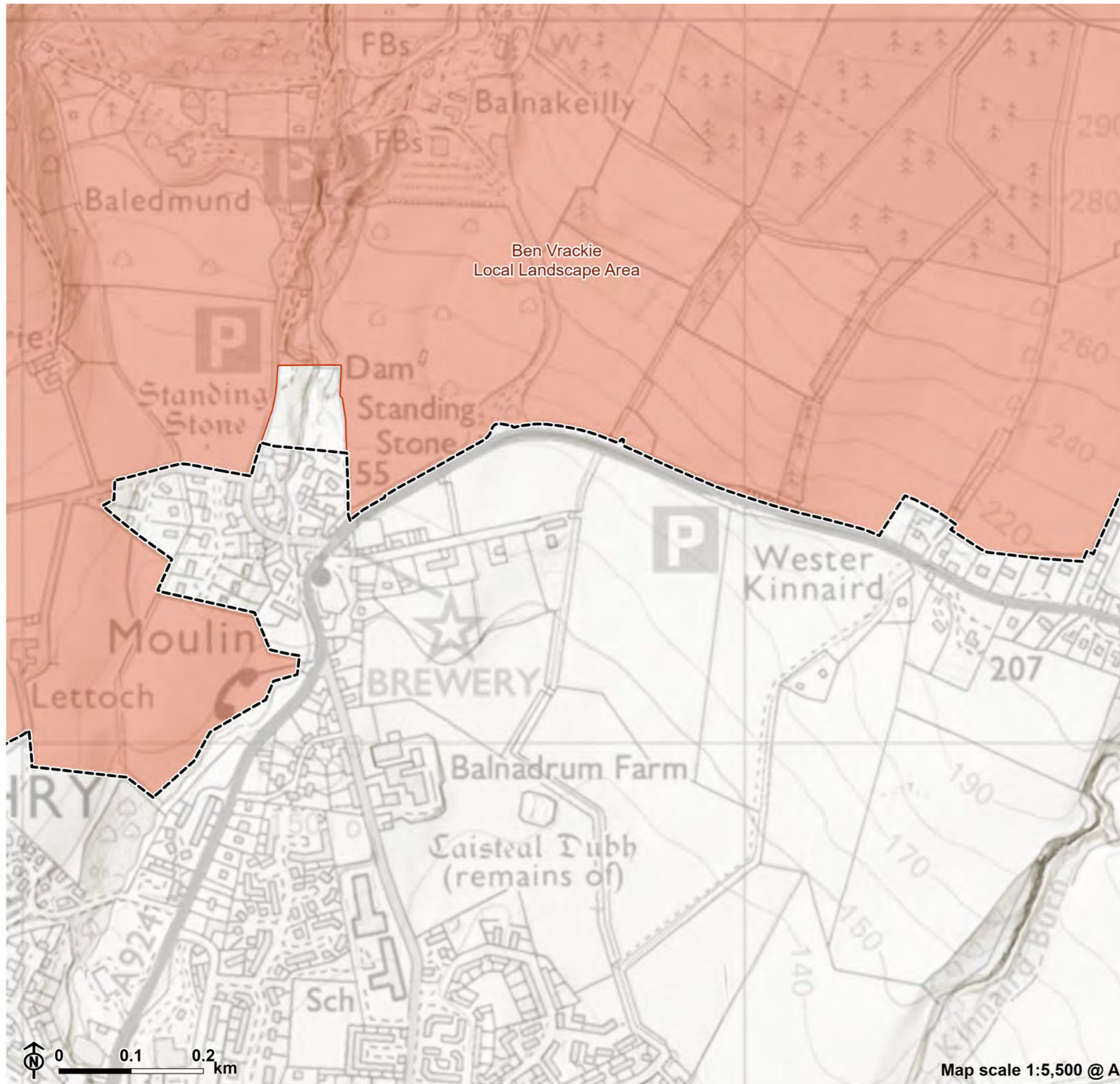
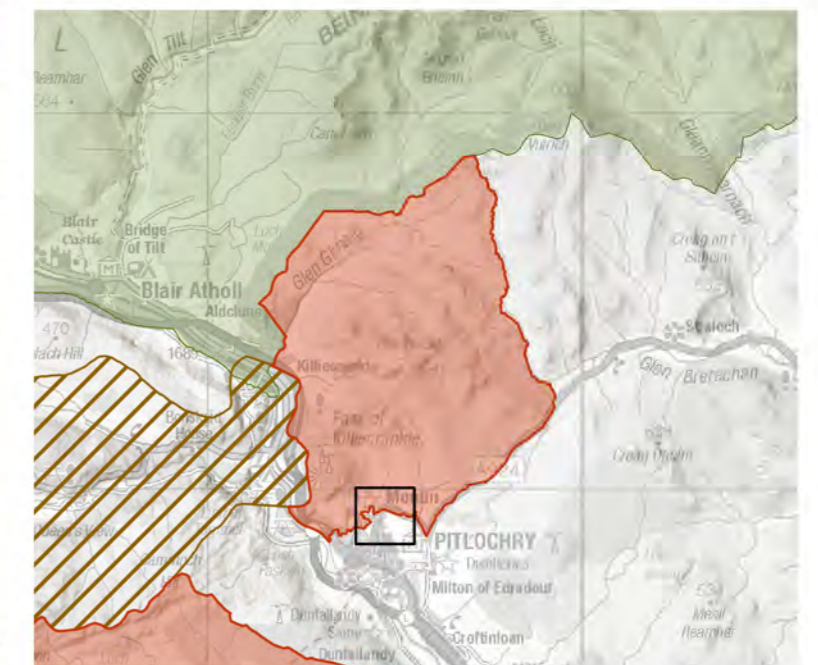


Figure 5. Updated Ben Vrackie Local Landscape Area Boundary

- Existing Local Landscape Area
- Proposed Local Landscape Area boundary

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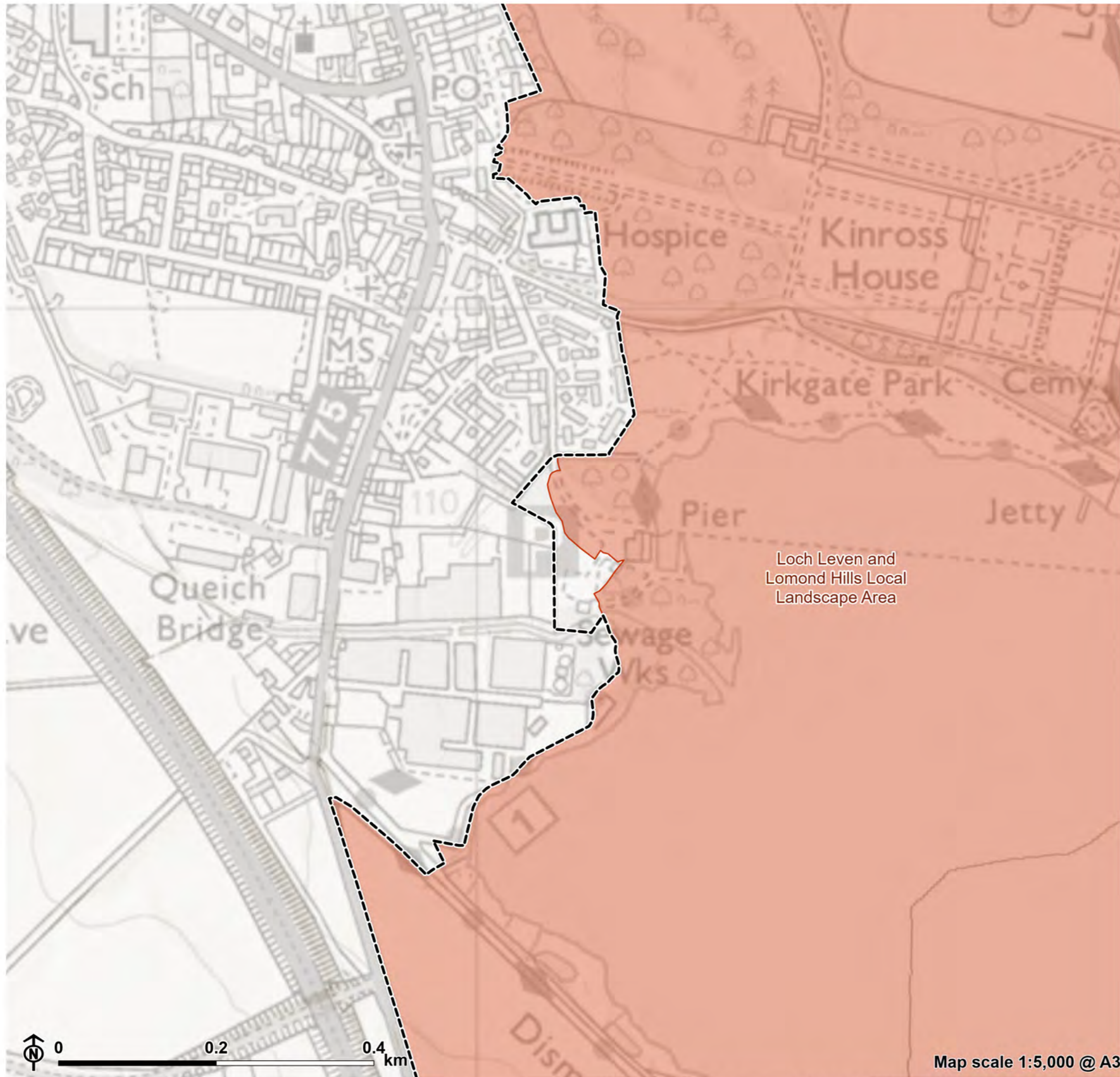


Figure 6. Updated Loch Leven and Lomond Hills Local Landscape Area Boundary

- Existing Local Landscape Area
- Proposed Local Landscape Area boundary

This figure should be viewed in conjunction with Figure 1.

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